5
YUUKI KODAMA
BLOOD LAD

ピピピ
PI (BEEP)
ゴオオオ
GOOOO (WHOOOSH)
I'M AFRAID WE'RE OUT OF TIME TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS.
YOU WANT ME TO DO WHAT WITH AKIM, NOW?
AND?
IT APPEARS OUR GUEST HAS ARRIVED SOONER THAN EXPECTED.

CHAPTER 21 ♠ RAMEN ON THE RUN, TOTALLY

BLOOD LAD

YUUKI KODAMA

CHAPTER 21 ♠ RAMEN ON THE RUN, TOTALLY

CONTENTS

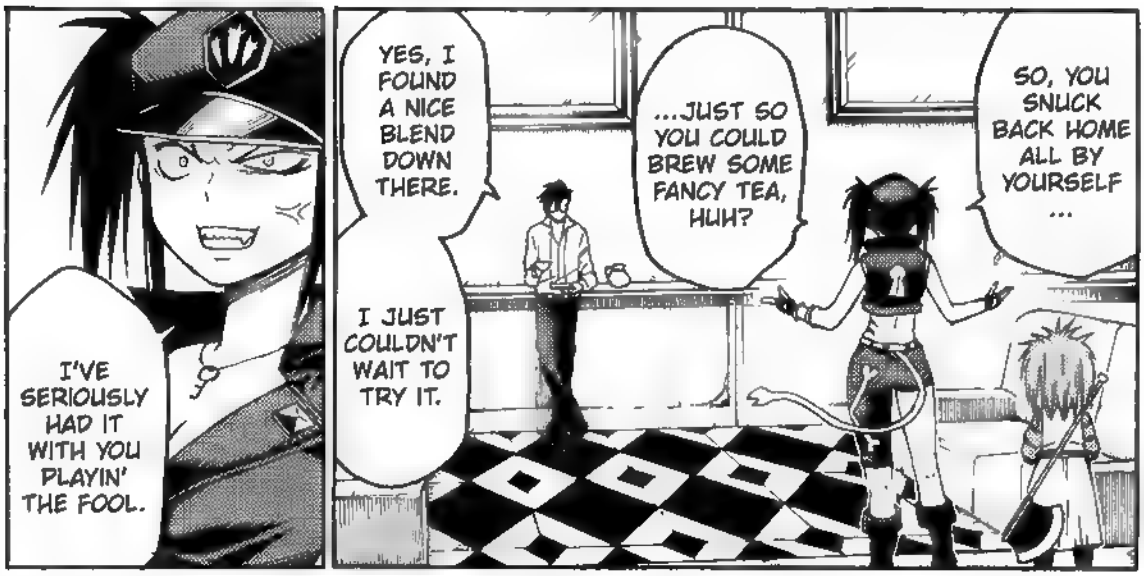
Chapter 21 ♠ Ramen on the Run, Totally...001
Chapter 22 ♠ Two is a Treasure...039
Chapter 23 ♠ Square Diver...073
Chapter 24 ♠ Pantser on Fire...107
Chapter 25 ♠ The Crime of Glasses...141

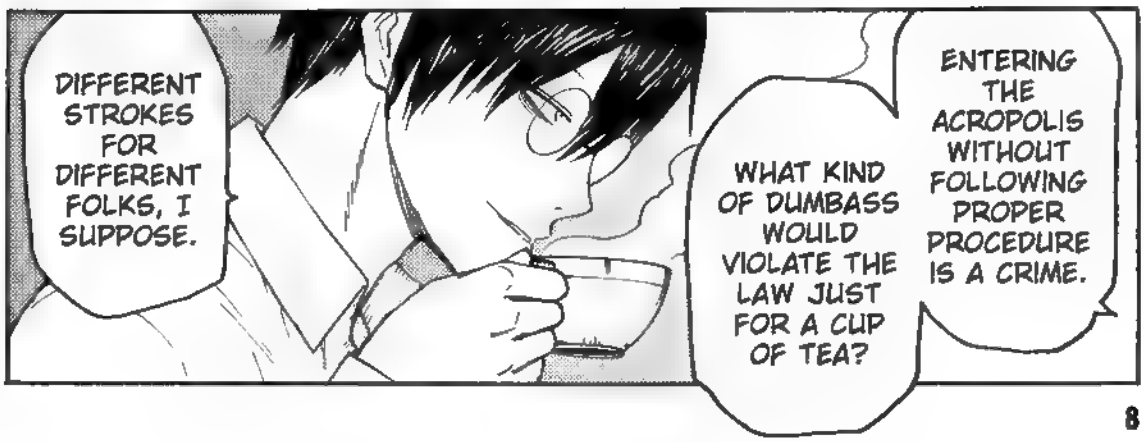
HE'LL TELL YOU THE REST OF WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.
GAKO (CHUNK)
ガコッ
HITA (STEP)
ヒタ…
HEY... LONG TIME NO SEE. ♡
I WON'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU.
ZA (SKSH)
…!
IT'S ALL RIGHT …
AFTER ALL, WE'RE PARTNERS …
… AREN'T WE?

リンゴーン
RINGOON
リンゴーン
RINGOON
リンゴーン
RINGOON
RINGOON (DING-DONG)
KACHI (CLICK)
カチ
KACHI
カチ
KACHI
カチ
KACHI
カチ
KACHI
カチ
IT'S YOUR BROTHER'S FAULT FOR NOT FRICKIN' ANSWERING!
SHUT IT!!
YOU'LL BREAK IT!
DON'T KEEP JAB-BING IT LIKE THAT!
THEN YOU GO GET HIM! OR LET ME IN!
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A HOS-TAGE!
NO!
My, my...
-KZT-
BEST OPEN UP! OR SOMETHIN' MIGHT HAPPEN TO YOUR SWEET LITTLE SISTER HERE!!
SHAA (HISS)
HEY, I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE, YOU FOUR-EYED CREEPER!!

Have you got Liz with you?
JUST SHUT YOUR TRAP AND OPEN THE DAMN GATE.
DROP THE ACT ALREADY.
You're the same as ever, Beros.
All right, I've unlocked it.
Now let go of Liz.
HURRY UP!
SHE'S GONNA— MHMMPH ...
DON'T OPEN IT, BROTH-ER!!
What could possibly bring you here?
GOGOON (DADOONG)
Please, do come in...

WOULD YOU LIKE A CUP? IT'S PREMIUM HERBAL TEA.
I WAS JUST MAKING TEA.
KOPO (GLUG)
PO
.....


I'VE SERIOUSLY HAD IT WITH YOU PLAYIN' THE FOOL.
YES, I FOUND A NICE BLEND DOWN THERE.
I JUST COULDN'T WAIT TO TRY IT.
...JUST SO YOU COULD BREW SOME FANCY TEA, HUH?
SO, YOU SNUCK BACK HOME ALL BY YOURSELF ...

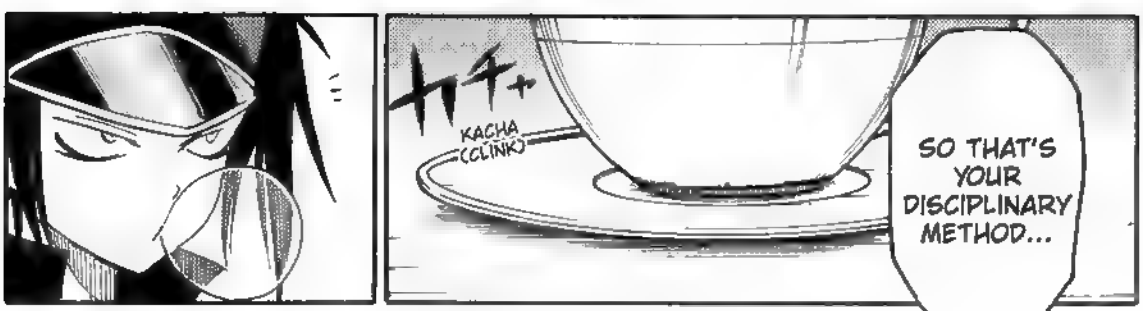

DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS, I SUPPOSE.
WHAT KIND OF DUMBASS WOULD VIOLATE THE LAW JUST FOR A CUP OF TEA?
ENTERING THE ACROPOLIS WITHOUT FOLLOWING PROPER PROCEDURE IS A CRIME.

FLAP THAT CLEVER MOUTH OF YOURS WHILE YOU STILL CAN.
MY SPECIAL DISPEN-SATION— THE UNDERDOG CHOKER...
...IS A CURSE THAT'LL FOLLOW YOU NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO.
YOU JUST KEEP ON TALKIN'.

GOO (ROAR)
UNTIL I UNLOCK IT WITH THIS KEY, THAT IS.
...ARE NOT PERMITTED TO USE ANY MAGIC WHATSOEVER.
ZUN (SHOOM)
THOSE WHO WEAR THAT COLLAR ...
...AND IF I DO USE MAGIC?
YOU WANNA SEE WHAT HAP-PENS?

ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
(ZMMO)
THAT HERBAL TEA'LL END UP BLENDED WITH YOUR BLOOD.

.....I SEE.


KACHA
(CLINK)
SO THAT'S YOUR DISCIPLINARY METHOD...

WELL, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE ME FOR A WALK?
フキ フキ
SFX: FUKI (WIPE) FUKI
THAT'S WHY YOU CAME, ISN'T IT?
.....
I WON'T MIND BEING KEPT AS YOUR PET.
パーン (POP)
I FAILED YOU AGAIN...
...I'M SORRY, BROTHER. I...
I'LL BE GOING OUT FOR A BIT.
OH. LIZ.
..... BROTHER ...
IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT, LIZ.
I RUINED EVERY-THING...

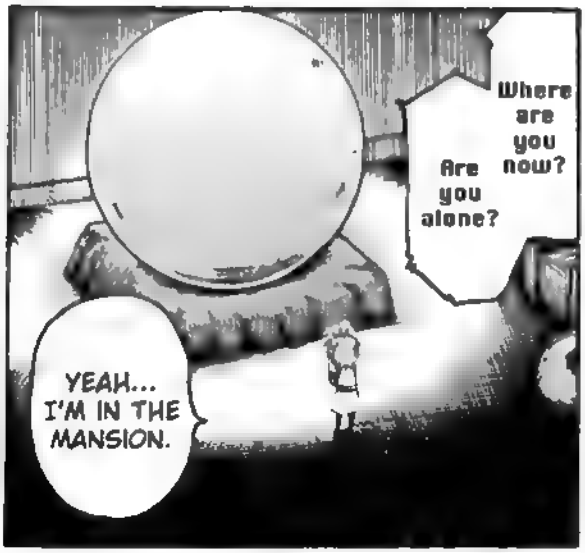
YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BUY TIME, BUT YOU CAN AT LEAST TAKE CARE OF THE HOUSE WHILE I'M GONE, RIGHT?
GYU (SQUEEZE)
BYE NOW, LIZ. BE A GOOD GIRL.
ポン
ポン
SFX: PON (PAT) PON

ZUZAAA (SKSHH)
I DON'T KNOW ANY OF THESE PLACES. I'M JUST GETTING LESS AND LESS SURE.
I'VE JUST BEEN RANDOMLY JUMPING AROUND—IS THIS REALLY THE RIGHT WAY?
BRRRING!
WHAT'RE YOU LOOKIN' AT?
JIRO
JIRO (STARE)
Do you know where Fuyumi is!?
.....YEAH.
THAT YOU, LIZ!?
BA (FWIP)

...Hey, are you crying again?
..... NOT YET.

Sure you aren't.
...I'M NOT CRYING!

.....
What about our brother?


Where are you now?
Are you alone?
YEAH... I'M IN THE MANSION.

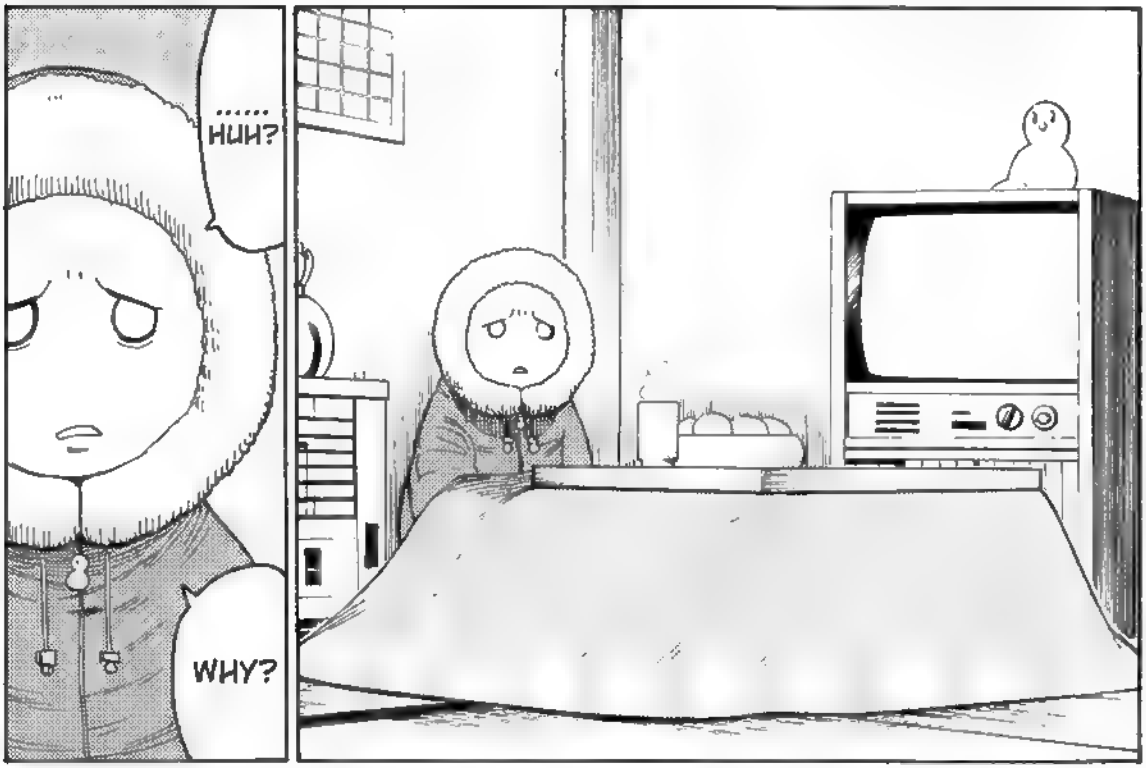
HE...IT'S MY FAULT FOR COMING BACK HERE...

I'M STANDING IN FRONT OF THE CRYSTAL BALL.
...NUH-UH, I CAN FIND HER...
BUT...
WHA!?
HE GOT CAUGHT!?
THEN FORGET REVIVING FUYUMI...
...WE WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO FIND HER!!
...I DON'T GET IT!
IT'S PITCH-BLACK.
SHE'S SOME-WHERE THE CRYSTAL BALL CAN'T SEE!!
HEY, YOU!
ZA (SKSH)
...SO WHAT'S THAT MEAN...?

WELL, LIZ... IF YOU FIGURE OUT ANYTHING, CALL ME BACK.
YER MAKIN' TROUBLE!!
YOU TO-TALLY ARE!!
SO WHAT'RE YA DOIN', HUH, STANDIN' IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DANG ROAD, YAKKIN' AWAY ON YER DANG PHONE!?
NAH?
ARE YA?
HUH?
YOU AIN'T FROM AROUND HERE!!
HEY
I'M NOT CRYING!
And none of this is your fault, so don't cry anymore, okay?
THEN HOW 'BOUT A LITTLE CHAT WITH ME? HELL-OOO!!
OOH! WHUZZAT? DONE WITH THE PHONIN' NOW?
LATER.
PI (BEEP)
HELLOOOOO!
HUH? I CAN'T HEAR YA, MAN !!
I'M LOOKIN' FOR HIM.
HEY, YOU DON'T KNOW THIS GUY, DO YOU?

HE'S ALWAYS ON TOP OF STUFF! HE TOTALLY IS!!
OH! BUT THE BOSS MIGHT KNOW...
I SEE.
NO... SORRY, NEVER SEEN HIM, SIR.
I'M SORRY I CAN'T BE MORE HELP...
ALL RIGHT ...
SURE.
I'LL TAKE YOU TO HIM!! NO PROB-LEM!!
SIGN: TROPICAL
トロピカル
open
JUST SO YOU KNOW, IF YOU'RE TRYING TO SET ME UP, I WILL END YOU.
DA (DASH)
THIS WAY!!
.....
I'M SUCH A DOPE!! TOTALLY!
UH, MY MISTAKE! RIGHT, IT'S THIS WAY!!

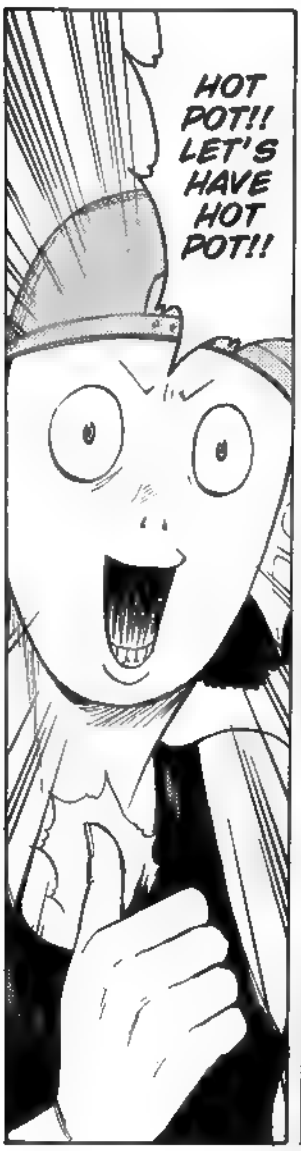
NOTE: THE JAPANESE FOR "SNOW" IS YUKI.

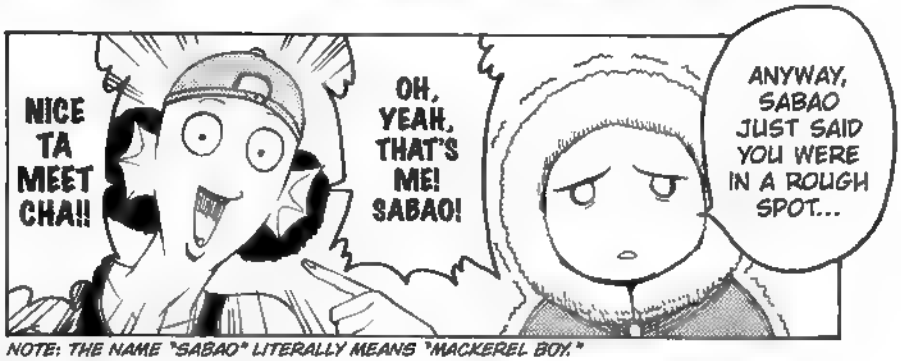


YES, IT IS CHILLY...
HERE, COME SIT UNDER THE KOTATSU. IT'S NICE AND WARM.
.....
YEAH, WELL... ISN'T IT, LIKE, WAY TOO COLD IN HERE? WHAT'S THE DEAL?
カタカタ
.....IT'S LIKE HE SAYS?
OH, THIS DUDE WAS IN A ROUGH SPOT, Y'KNOW, SO I JUST HAD TA HELP HIM OUT OF GOOD WILL, 100% GOOD WILL, TOTALLY.

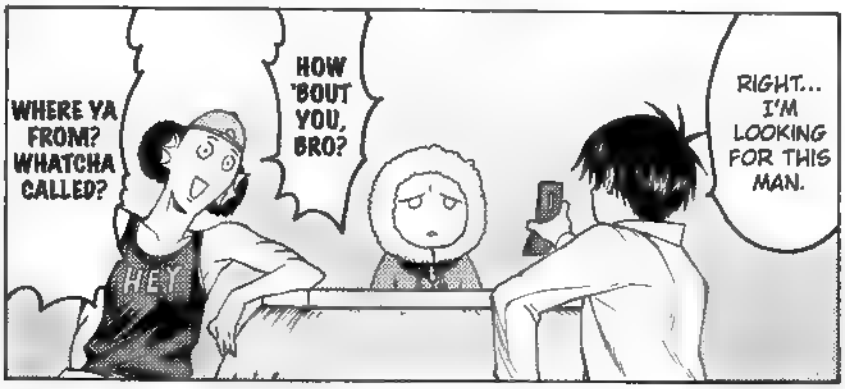
SFX: KATA (SHAKE) KATA

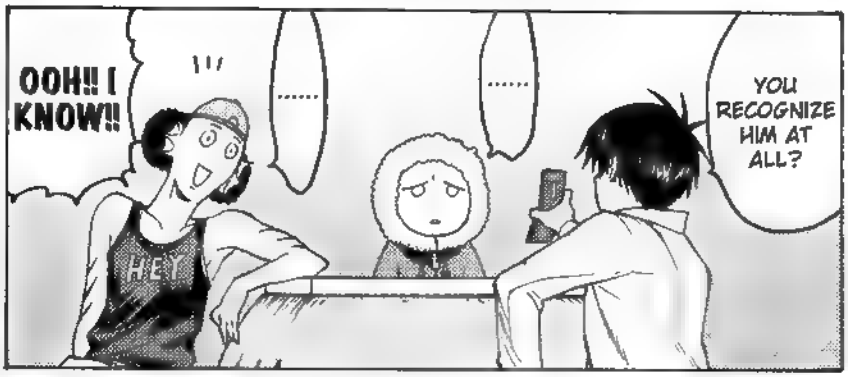
OH MAN, AIN'T OUR BOSS A RIOT?
AH HA HA!
BAN
BAN (BANG)
HEY
YEAH, WELL, HOW COME YOU'RE NOT COLD?
INCLUDING YOURSELF, APPAR-ENTLY...
SORRY ABOUT THIS...I'M A SNOWMAN, SO EVERYTHING AROUND ME GETS REEEEALLY, REALLY COLD...





NOTE: THE NAME "SABAO" LITERALLY MEANS "MACKEREL BOY."





JJIGAE HOT POT, BABY!!
YEAAAH!
AND JJIGAE!! IT'S GOTTA BE JJIGAE, YOU KNOW IT!!
NOTHIN' BETTER THAN HOT POT WHEN IT'S COLD!! TOTALLY, RIGHT?!
UMM...
WELL?
SHUU (FSHH)
UHH... YEAH!
YEAH, I KNOW THE KID.
GATA (CLATTER)
WHERE? IS IT AROUND HERE!?
...I DON'T THINK IT'S POSSIBLE TO GET THERE.
... WELL ...
THEN DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE HE COULD BE!?
REAL-LY!?
UMM... I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS NOW, BUT...
...I SORT OF KNOW WHERE HE LIVES.
?

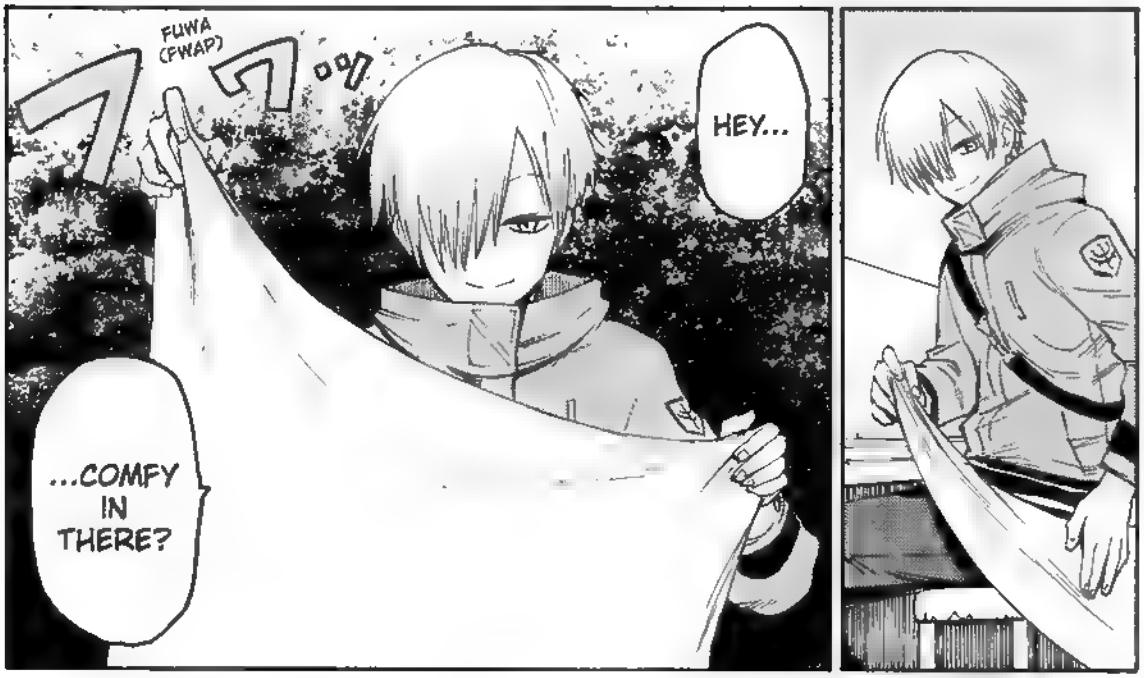
NOTE: JJIGAE IS A KOREAN STEW OF MEAT OR VEGETABLES IN BROTH, COMMONLY SERVED IN A COMMUNAL HOT POT AND COOKED AT THE TABLE.

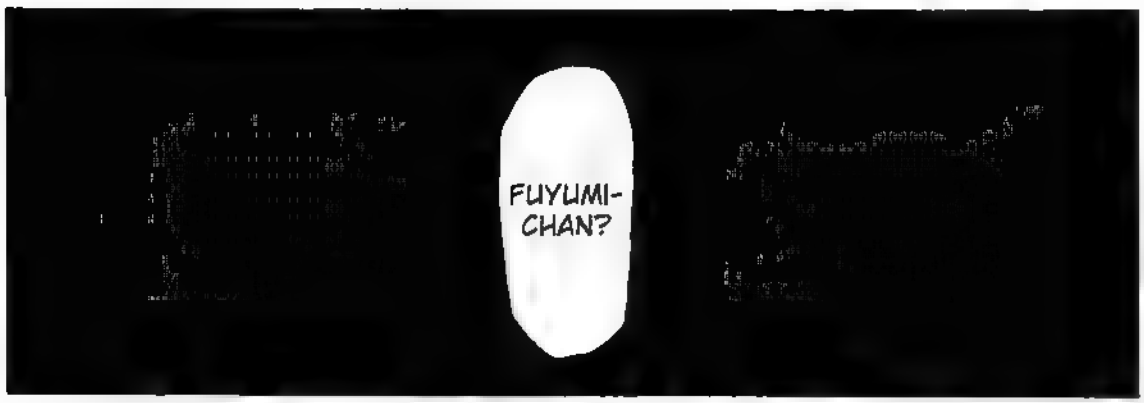
IT'S IN THE DIMEN-SIONAL HIGHWAY.
A LABYRINTH OF COUNTLESS DOORS, ONE OF THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE DEMON WORLD.
...BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYONE WHO'S BEEN THERE OR SEEN HIS HOUSE.
SO I SAID "SORT OF" BECAUSE I KNOW THAT'S WHERE HE LIVES...
WHAT THE HELL ARE THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE DEMON WORLD? NEVER HEARD OF 'EM...
I JUST KNOW THAT'S WHERE HE GOES WHEN HE GOES HOME.

ムニャ MUNYA
ムニャ MUNYA (MURMUR)
JJIGAE ...
HEY
...SOME-PLACE.
BUT IF YOU'RE LUCKY, KNELL-KUN IS STILL AROUND HERE...
...IF HE'S GONE HOME TO THAT PLACE, THERE'S NO WAY TO FOLLOW HIM.
SO BASICALLY WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS...
THAT'S RIGHT...
KNELL-KUN...?
.....
...I JUST DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS.
I SAID I KNEW HIM...
DON (SLAM)
... WELL, YEAH ...
SO YOU DO KNOW THIS GUY!?
AND HE HAS SOME STRANGE POWERS.
HE'S A TRANS-PORTER.
MY EYE-SIGHT'S NOT SO GOOD... OH, HERE IT IS.
MUST BE AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE ...
AND I HAVE HIS BUSINESS CARD.
YOU TOTALLY KNOW HIM!! WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT WHEN YOU SAW THE PIC!?
THIS..... IS THIS FOR REAL...?
.....

SIGN: COMPROMISE RAMEN
WELP.
SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM!
TON (TUNK)
妥協ラーメン
THE JOB'S 90% DONE...
ZURUU (SLURP)
ズルー
MMM...
...BUT, Y'KNOW, I CAN'T FINISH IT ON AN EMPTY STOMACH.

SHIRT: COMPROMISE





WELL, NOT LIKE MY VOICE CAN REACH YOU...
...THERE IN MY BUNDLE ROOM.
I'ck Here

...I'LL SEND YOU A PRESENT.
NOW...

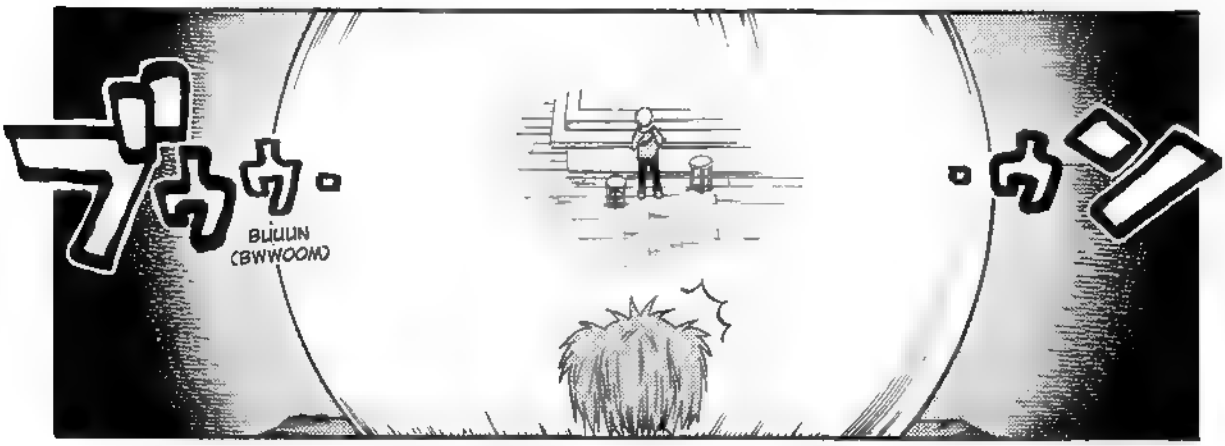
?
FUWA (FWAP)
THANK YA.
THERE YA GO! A FRESH COMPRO-MISE RAMEN FOR YA!
WE ALWAYS COMPRO-MISE ON THE TASTE!!
!
THIS IS JUST AN ORDINARY BUNDLE CLOTH.
SU (SWSH)

WE DON'T COMPROMISE ON OUR BOWLS!! YOU GOTTA PAY FOR THAT!
UH...
THIS IS JUST A TOOL OF MY TRADE, AND WITH IT I CAN—
HEH-HEH. SURPRISED?
C'MON! YOU DISAPPEARED THE BOWL AND EVERYTHING!!
HEY, KID, WHAT WAS THAT!? A MAGIC TRICK!?
HOLY CRAP!
NU (POKE)
IF YOU'RE SAYIN' YOU CAN'T PAY UP, THERE WON'T BE ANY COMPRO-MISES!!
HUH? THERE'S NO WAY THAT...
ONE MILLION! THAT'S A COMPRO-MISE!!
JUST A MIN-UTE.
ZU (CHWIZ)
ALL RIGHT, FINE, I'LL GET THE BOWL BACK...
!
LESSEE ...

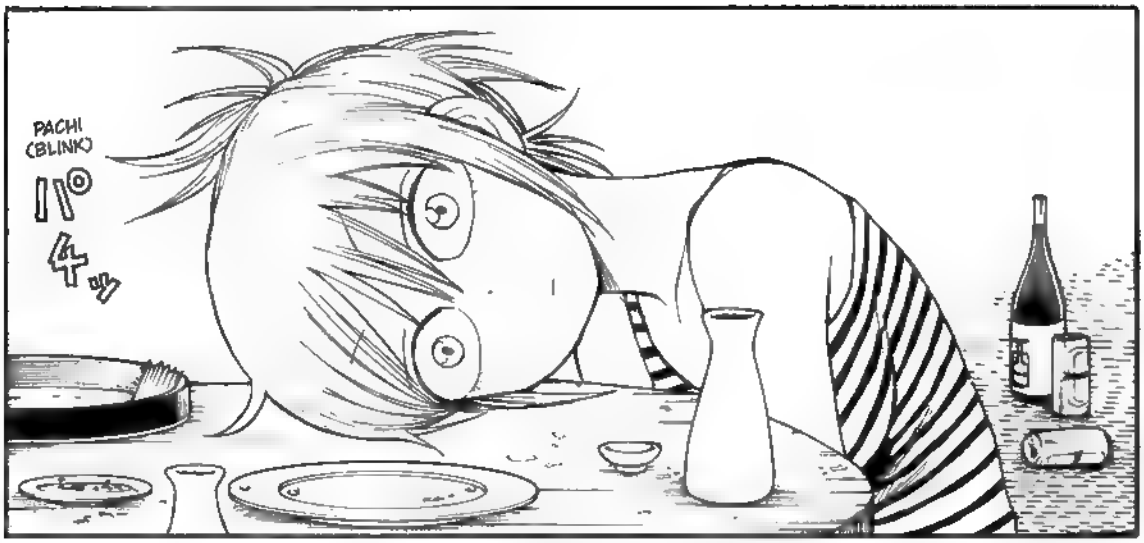
GAH! HOT, HOT, HOT! I'M GETTING BROTH ON ME! IT'S SPILLING!!
LET GO A SEC-OND!
GASHI! (GRAB)
CLICK Here
IF YOU'RE GONNA BE LIKE THAT, THEN I'M NOT GONNA...
DAMMIT!!
ZURU (DRAG)
...COM-PROMISE !!

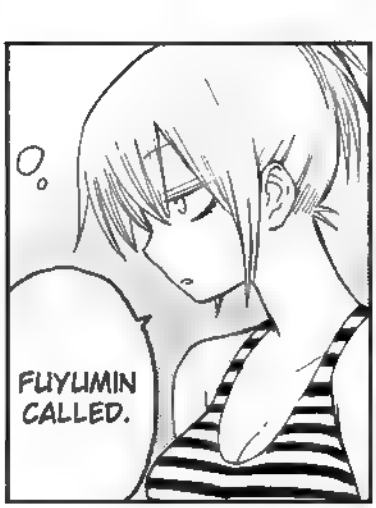
!!
:JINGLE:
:JINGLE:
:JING...
ZUBA (VWIP)
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
WHAT ...
...JUST HAP-PENED ...

WHAT DID YOU DO...!?
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
Click Here

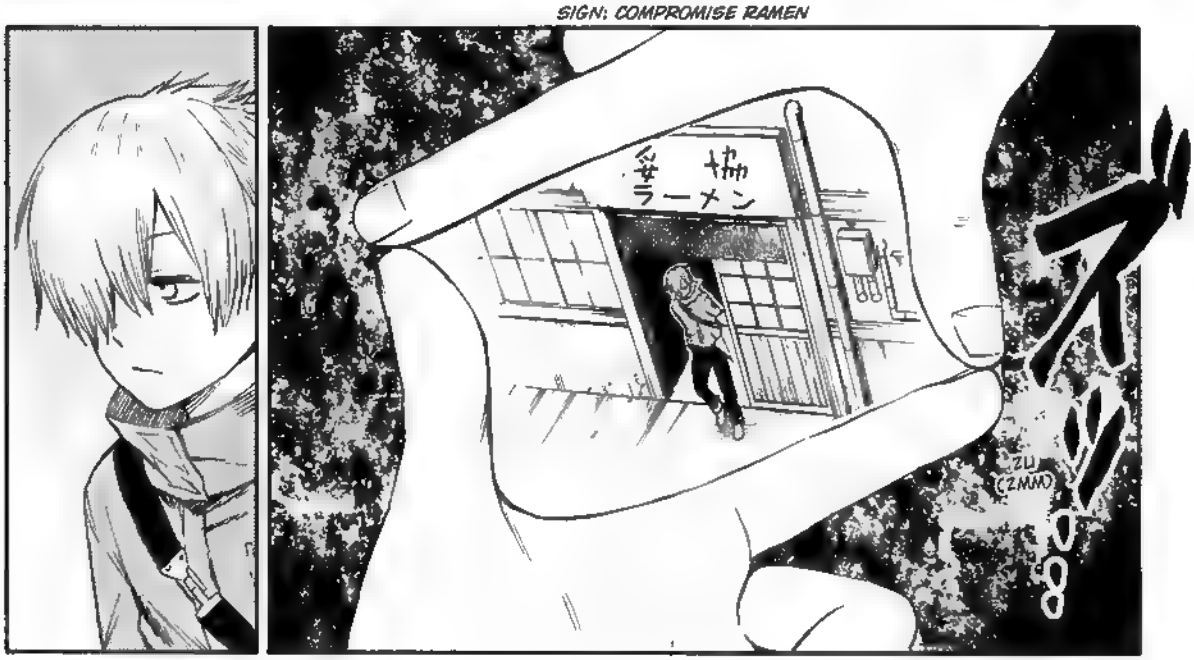

BUUUN
(BWWOOM)

FUYUMI ...!





SIGN: COMPROMISE RAMEN



...IS IT SHOWING ME THAT GUY...?
..... WHY ...
GATA (CLATTER)
SO WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
GIRL, YOU'VE BEEN DRINK-ING TOO MUCH.
... HELLO.
YEAH, THINGS ARE FINE... IT'S GOING WELL.
DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE BACK SOON.
BRRRING!
FINE?
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT UNTIL YOU'VE ENTERED THE DIMENSION.

UNDER-STAND?

COME BACK SOON SO YOUR MOTHER DOESN'T WORRY.

KNELL...

BIPIP

YEAH... I'LL MOVE AS FAST AS I CAN. ...BYE.

...BUT DON'T ASSUME ANYTHING UNTIL YOU ARE...

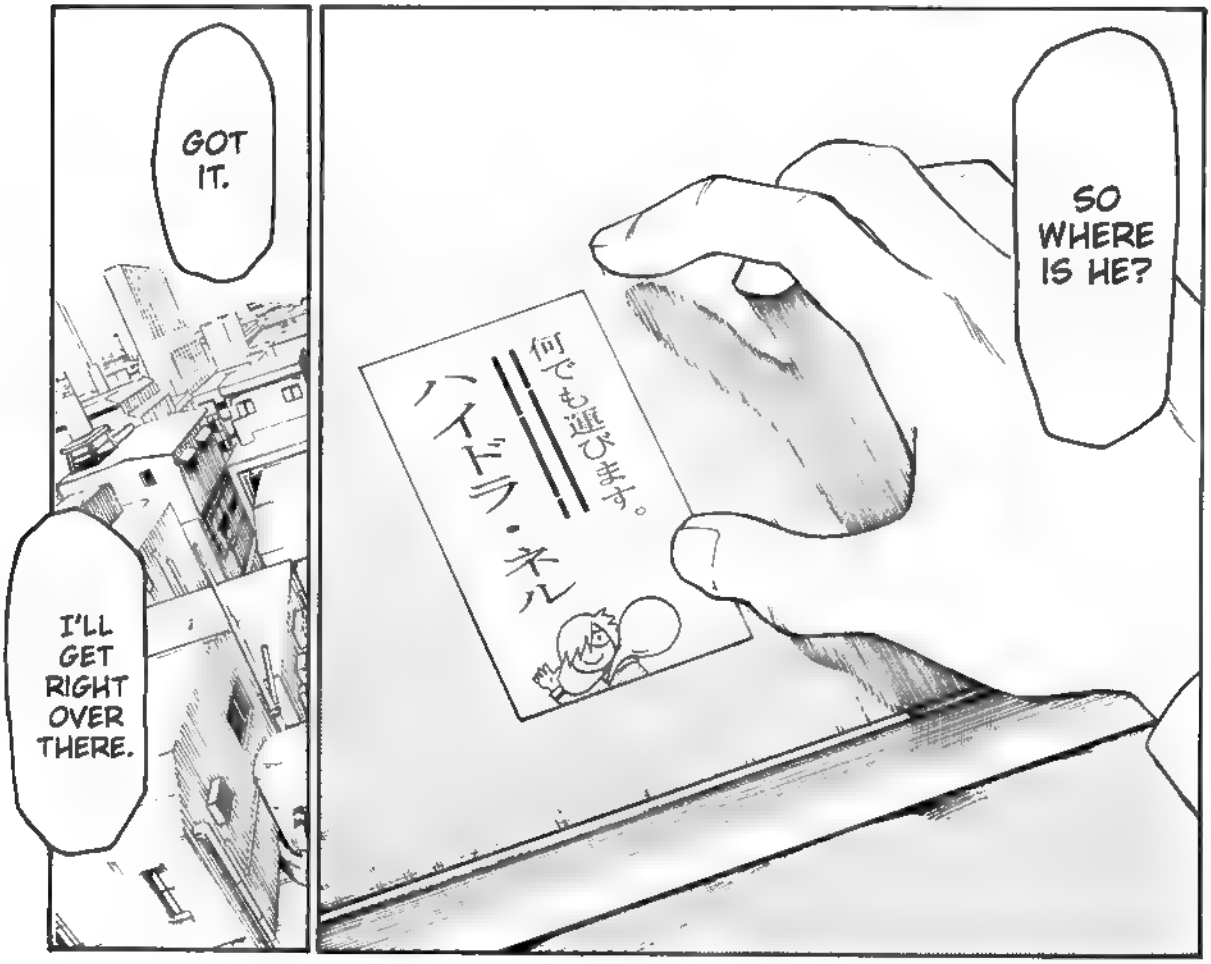
THINGS WILL BE FINE ONCE YOU'RE SAFELY ON THIS SIDE...

THINGS WILL BE FINE ONCE YOU'RE SAFELY ON THIS SIDE...

...BUT DON'T ASSUME ANYTHING UNTIL YOU ARE...
UNDER-STAND?
COME BACK SOON SO YOUR MOTHER DOESN'T WORRY.
KNELL...
BIP!
YEAH... I'LL MOVE AS FAST AS I CAN. ...BYE.

STAZ!! I FOUND OUT WHERE FUYUMI IS!!
That you, Liz?
BRRRING!
YEAH, AND I JUST FOUND OUT WHO THAT GUY IS.
The crystal ball showed me some weird man... So he must...

CARD: TRANSPORTING WHATEVER YOU NEED, KNELL HYDRA



♠ To Be Continued ♠

.....
GUUUUUU
(GURGLE)
PAKU
(MUNCH)

BLOOD LAD

CHAPTER 22 ♠ TWO IS A TREASURE

DA (LEAP)
SERI-OUSLY ...
MOM'S SUCH A WORRY-WART...
SHUTA (SHOOP)
TON (TAP)
BA (JUMP)
THAT BELL...
BUT THAT THING SHE HAD...
COULD IT BE...?

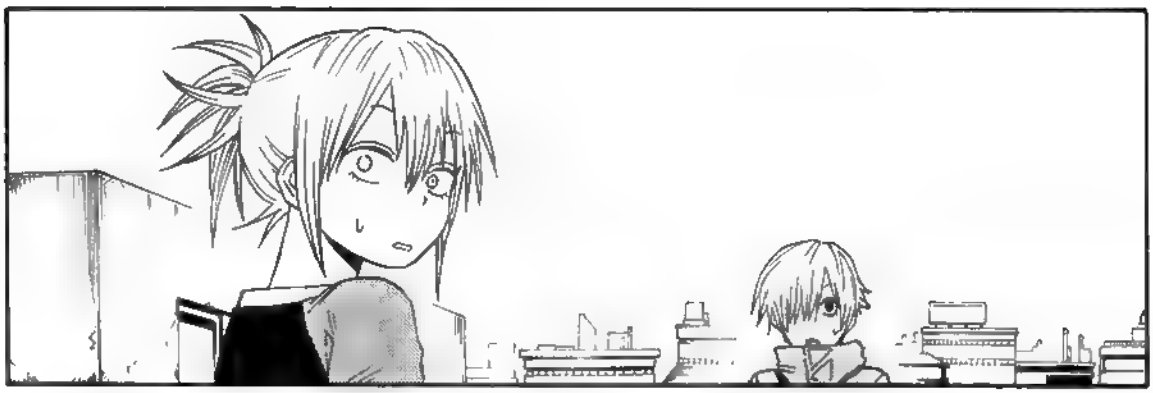
BA
(LEAP)
!
SUUU
(SHWOOO)

WHOA!
DAN (STOMP)
OOPS!
DANGIT.
...THIS IS...
TOTALLY THOUGHT I HAD YOU.
GUESS YOU'VE SEEN THAT TRICK BEFORE, THOUGH, HUH?
!
H...

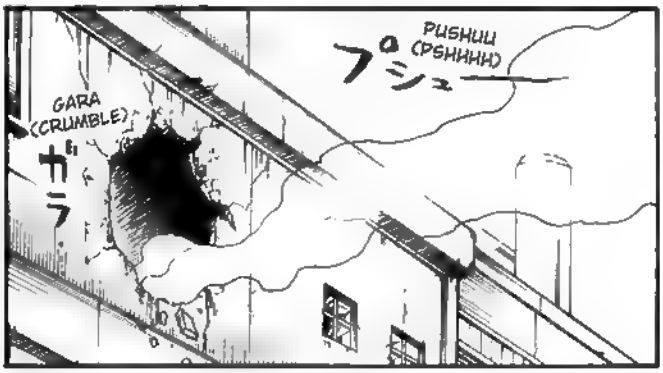
GYAAAAA!!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HUH, KNELL?
SU (SWSH)
スー
...HEY, SIS...
BO (KICK)
LIKE-WISE, SIS...
.....
GOOD TO SEE YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT.
PURU (TREMBLE)
PURU (TREMBLE)
UH... UUUH ...

SO?
I KNOW ...
...ABOUT THE GOODS YOU'RE TRANS-PORTING.
WHO'RE YOU WORKING FOR?
I HAVE NO IDEA ...
...WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
♪JINGLE♪
THAT ...!
YOU GET IT NOW?
FUYUMI-CHAN'S AN AQUAINTANCE OF MINE. I CAN'T JUST LET PEOPLE RUN OFF WITH HER.
SO...
...WHY DON'T YOU TELL YOUR BIG SISTER WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT.

I SENT YOU A TON OF TEXTS ABOUT IT.
...WHY D'YOU WANT TO KNOW NOW?
HUH ...?
YOU MEAN ...?
IT'S NOT A JOB— IT'S JUST A LITTLE ERRAND.
WHA ...?
YOU WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER AT THIS KIND OF THING.
BOGAA (KABOOM)
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT... WHAT WOULD MAMA WANT WITH FUYUMIN?
MOM IS REALLY REALLY PISSED AT YOU.



GA
(GRAB)
ガッ

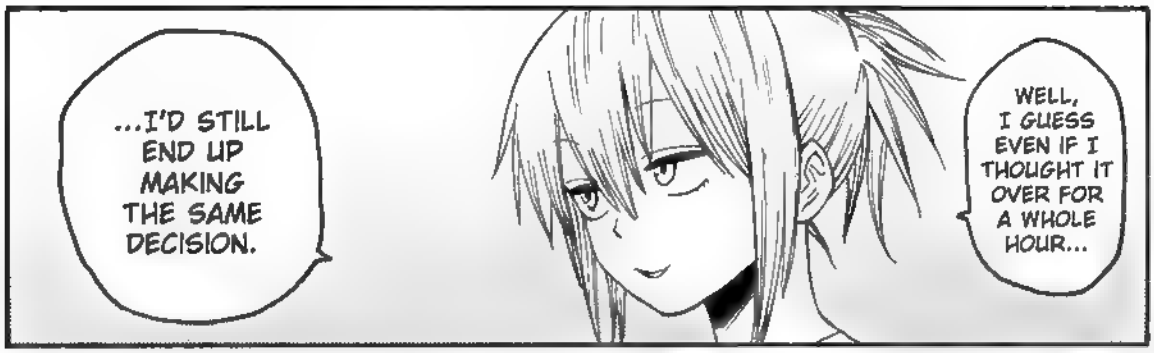

PUSHUU
(PSHHHH)
フシュー
GARA
(CRUMBLE)
ガラ

ニヤ
FOUND YOU.
GHOST THIEF.

...IF SHE FOUND OUT WE LET HIM TAKE BACK THE GIRL?
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE MOM WOULD DO...
FINE!
RGH...
STAZ!?
GE (SHOCK) "HT"
UH OH... LOOKS LIKE HE'S PISSED TOO.

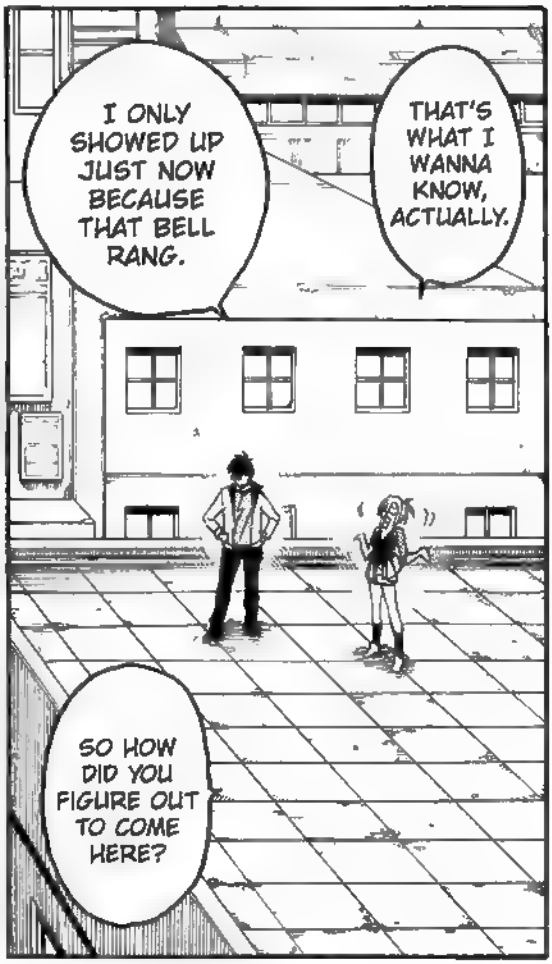
SAY HI TO DEAR MAMAN FOR ME, KNELL.
DAN (WHAM)

!
FU (VANISH)
YOU'RE A LITTLE TIED UP AT THE MOMENT, BUT YOU'LL THINK OF SOMETHIN'.
KUI (WAVE)
ZU (ZMM)
BELL ...
'CAUSE IF NOT, I'LL BE KICKIN' YOUR ASS.
MAKE UP YOUR MIND—ARE YOU ON MY SIDE OR NOT?
WELL, AS OF JUST NOW.
SO YOU'RE REALLY IN CAHOOTS WITH HIM, HUH...?
I'M JUST SAYING, YOU COULD AT LEAST GIMME A MINUTE TO THINK IT OVER, Y'KNOW?
WHA ...!?
SHEESH... YOU SURE DO RUSH INTO THINGS.


...I'D STILL END UP MAKING THE SAME DECISION.
WELL, I GUESS EVEN IF I THOUGHT IT OVER FOR A WHOLE HOUR...

WHY DID YOU KIDNAP FUYUMI?
YOU'RE NOT MAKIN' ANY DAMN SENSE.

THAT'S NOT ALL I FIGURED OUT.
I KNOW WHERE YOU LET THAT GUY RUN OFF TO.


I ONLY SHOWED UP JUST NOW BECAUSE THAT BELL RANG.
THAT'S WHAT I WANNA KNOW, ACTUALLY.
SO HOW DID YOU FIGURE OUT TO COME HERE?

.....
LOOKS LIKE I GOTTA GET THROUGH THERE TO FIND FUYUMI.

I DON'T LIKE BEING USED.
GOT IT?
I TOLD YOU BEFORE.
SEND ME AFTER HIM. NOW.
CIAO.
ZU (ZMM)
CATCH ME IF YOU CAN.

NNGH!
GUNE (SQUIRM)
GUNE
!
スト
SUTO (SHOOP)
REALLY ...?
SIGH...
YOU TIED IT TOO TIGHT!!
HOW SLOW CAN YOU BE?
BE QUIET !!
OW, OW, OW!!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, I'LL UNTIE IT. JUST HOLD STILL.
BUT YOU'RE HURTING ME!

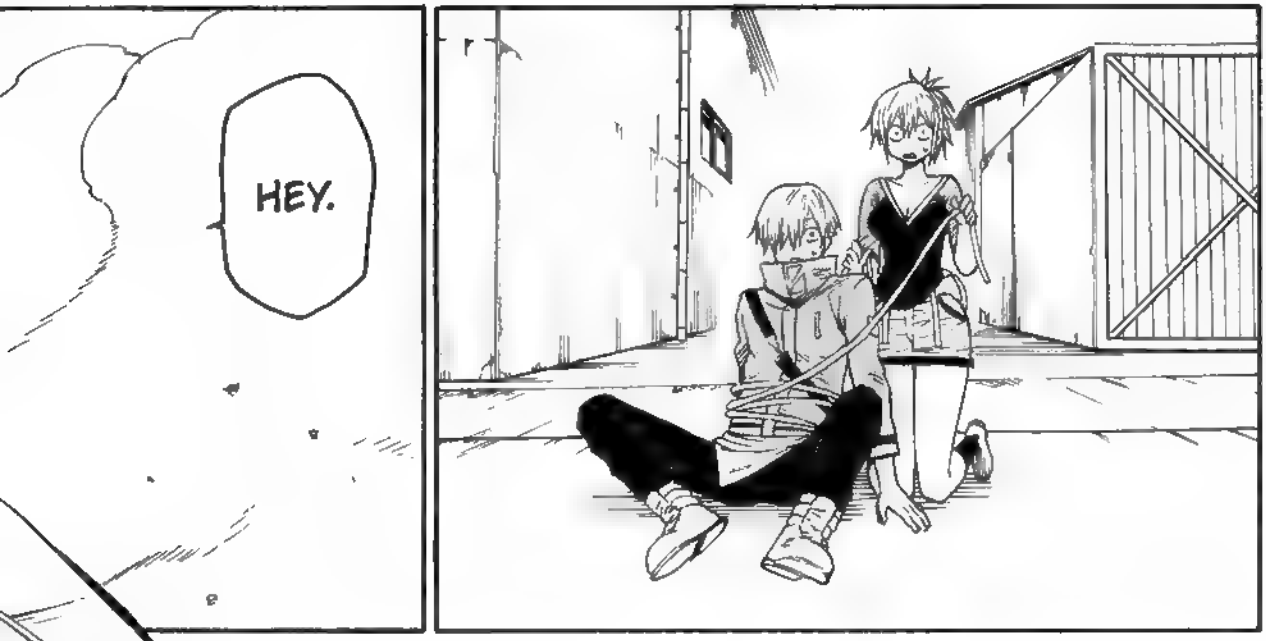
ZAAAAA (SKIID)

DO (BOOM)

HEY.

LONG TIME NO SEE.

DO
(BOOM)


HEY.

ZAAAAA
(SKIID)
LONG TIME NO SEE.

.....
GET GOING, KNELL.
HUH? ...BUT ...
GET THROUGH ME IF YOU CAN.
MY TURN.
IT'S FINE. JUST GO.
BUT IF I DO THAT ...
SO LET YOUR BIG SISTER HANDLE THIS. USE IT AND GET OUTTA HERE.
YOU USED *THAT THING* TO GET CLOSE WHEN YOU TOOK FUYUMIN, RIGHT?
.....
シュル
SHURU (SHWP)

AH-HA...
VA (VWIP)
ALL RIGHT.
SUTON (SHOOMP)
WELL, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE. YOU GONNA COME TAKE IT?
NOTHIN' MUCH.
THAT TABLECLOTH THING IS LIKE A 4D-POCKET, HUH? SO THAT'S HOW HE CARRIED OFF FUYUMI.
BUT WHAT THE HELL'S HE UP TO, GETTING IN IT HIMSELF?

NOTE: A REFERENCE TO DORAEMON'S 4TH-DIMENSIONAL POCKET, VIA WHICH HE ACCESSES HIS ENDLESS SUPPLY OF USEFUL GADGETS FROM THE FUTURE.

HEY THERE.
...NICE TO MEET YOU.
IT'S ...
SORRY ABOUT THE RAMEN.
RIGHT AROUND HERE, I THINK...
UM... O... OKAY.
AND TRY NOT TO LOOK AT WHAT I'M DOING.
DON'T MOVE, OKAY?

ZUBU (SINK)
IF I JUST PUT MY FEET OUT THERE A LITTLE BIT...

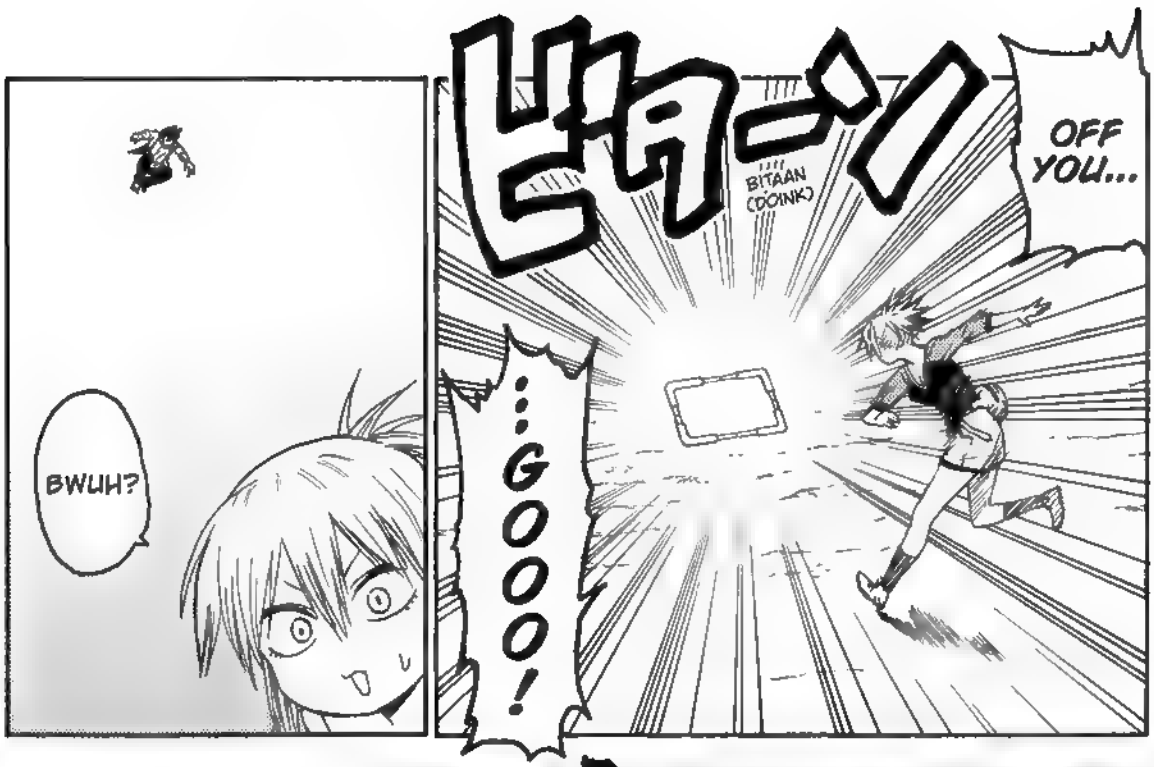
.....
YOU'RE TRYIN' TO TRICK ME. BRING IT OVER HERE.
I SAID YOU CAN HAVE IT.
HEY, WHAT'S THE PROB-LEM?

WHAT THE —?
SUUU (SWOOSH)

WHA? HEY!
SEE YA LATER ...
KURU (TURN)
YOU THINK SO? NEVER MIND, THEN.

DAMMIT!
BA (LUNGE)

NGH ...
GRAAAAH!
DA
DA
DA
DA
DA
DA
DA (DASH)
スィ
SWII (SLIIIDE)
THE HELL?


BWUH?
BITAAN (DOINK)
OFF YOU...
...GOOO!

CRAP.
I'M MISSING ALL OVER THE PLACE TODAY.

ZU (ZMM)
YOU THINK THAT'S GONNA WORK?

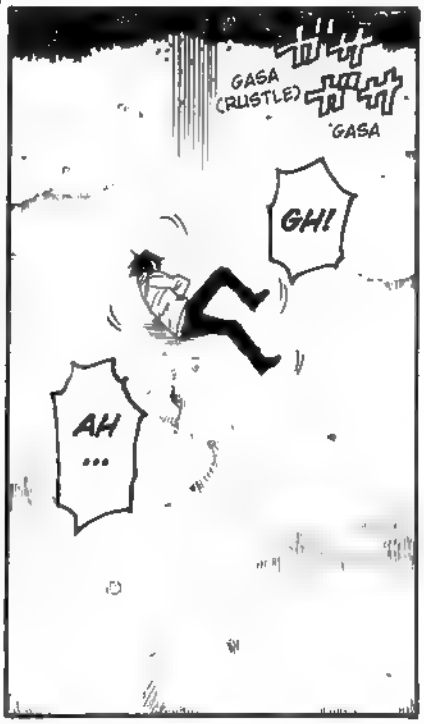
YOU'RE NOT GETTIN' AWAY EITHER!
GOO (ZOOM)
SUU (SWOOSH)
DON (BANG)
DON

...WITH THIS.
BUT I DON'T MISS ...

ドク
DOKU (BADUM)

JA
(SKSH)
DO
(SLAM)

BUT YOU LOST YOUR TARGET.
OH, HEALED ALREADY?
BA
(LURCH)
ARGH ...!


GASA
(RUSTLE)
GASA
GH!
AH ...

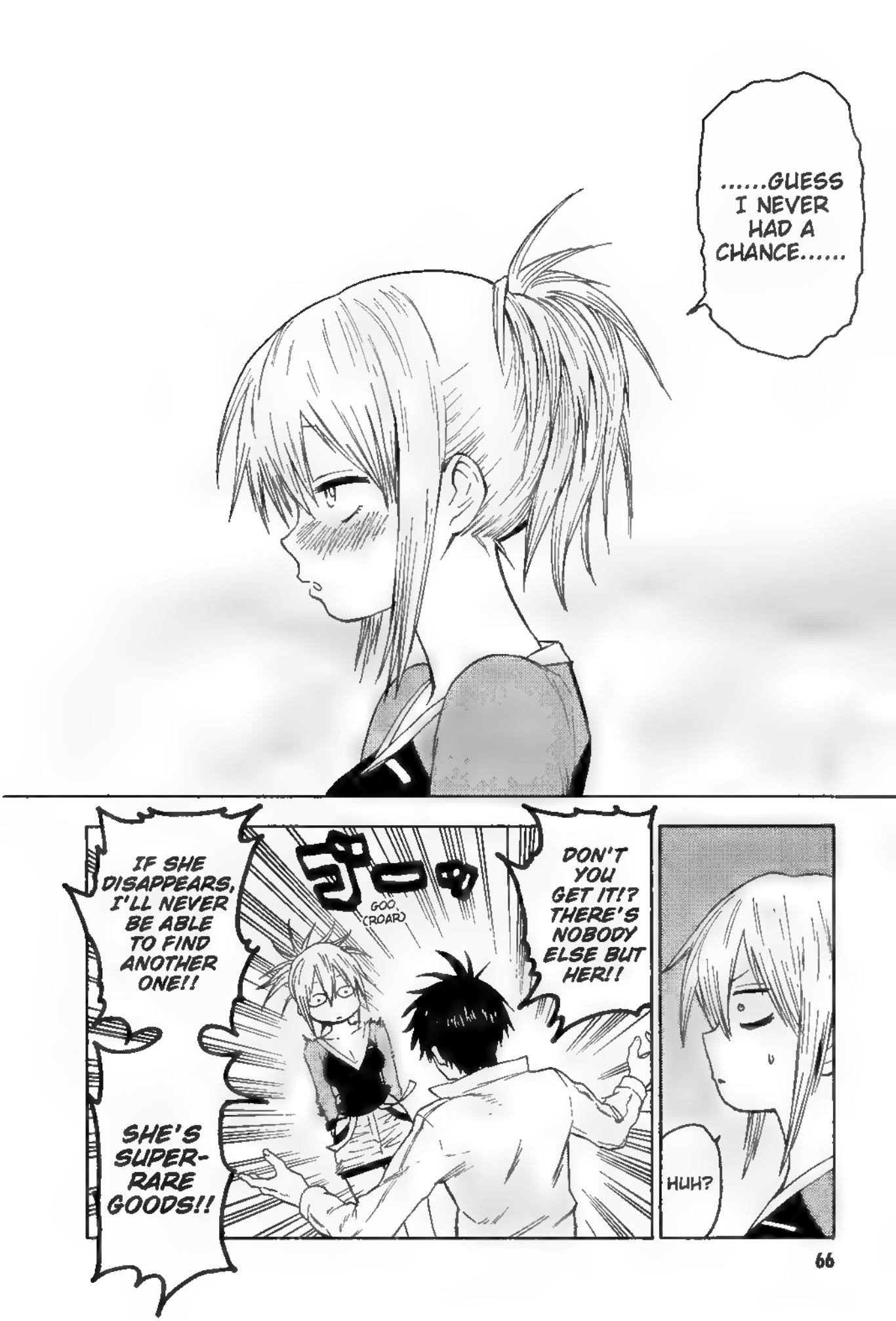
WHY ARE YOU GETTING IN MY WAY!?
... DAMMIT ...

.....
IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, FUYUMI'S GOING TO DISAPPEAR! YOU KNOW THAT!!

BUT THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
YEAH, I KNOW.
SO I'M PROTECTING HER NOW, AREN'T I?
UH-HUH.
FROM YOU.
.....
IT'S YOUR FAULT, ISN'T IT?
THAT BELL YOU GAVE TO FUYUMI...
...WASN'T IT TO PROTECT HER...IF SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENED?

HE FRICKIN' KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN!!
AND YOU TRYING TO STOP ME IS ALL PART OF HIS PLAN TOO!!
?
AND?
...MY BROTH-ER...
...PUT A TRANSMITTER IN FUYUMI.
IT'S NOT TOO LATE!
JUST LET ME HAVE FUYUMI!!
I'M BEGGING YOU! WAKE UP!!
.....
BELL!!

...IS SHE...
...THAT IMPOR-TANT TO YOU...?


.....GUESS I NEVER HAD A CHANCE.....
IF SHE DISAPPEARS, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIND ANOTHER ONE!!
SHE'S SUPER-RARE GOODS!!
GOO. (ROAR)
DON'T YOU GET IT!? THERE'S NOBODY ELSE BUT HER!!
HUH?

FUYUMI IS MY ONE-OF-A-KIND COLLECTOR'S ITEM!!
YOU GET THAT, DON'T YOU!?
YOU'RE A TREASURE HUNTER!!
GIN (GLARE)
THAT'S IT.

IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT HER...

...AND THAT'S HOW YOU SEE ME...

...THEN LET'S SETTLE THINGS THE PROPER WAY.

NOW YOU'RE GOING TO FACE MY SUPER-CRITICAL WRATH.

DOOON (BAROOM)

DOOON
DOOON

IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT HER...
...AND THAT'S HOW YOU SEE ME...
...THEN LET'S SETTLE THINGS THE PROPER WAY.
NOW YOU'RE GOING TO FACE MY SUPER-CRITICAL WRATH.

HOW ABOUT A MATCH, STAZ?
TWO TREA-SURE HUNT-ERS...
...COM-PETING FOR TREA-SURE.
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO (GOONG)
♠ To Be Continued ♠

.....
DOKI
(BADMP)
DOKI
ドキ
ドキ
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
ガサ
GASA
(RUSTLE)
ガサ
GASA
ガサ
GASA
ガサ
GASA

BLOOD LAD

CHAPTER 23 ♠ SQUARE DIVER

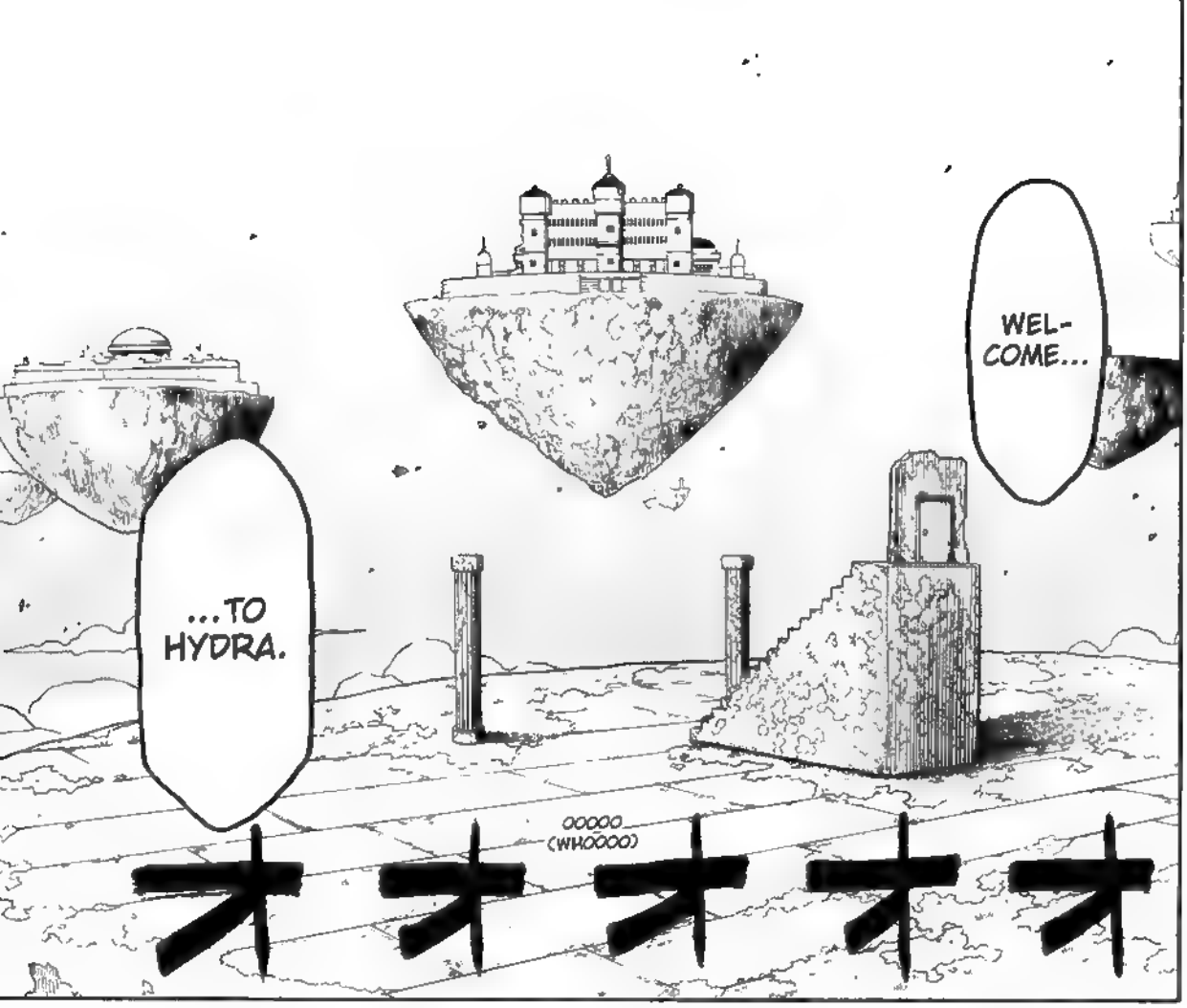
HYPO-THETI-CALLY SPEAKING ...
...SUPPOSE WE WERE TO HAVE AN ACCIDENT WHILE MOVING AT THIS SPEED AND FELL OFF THE ROAD...
WON'T HAPPEN.
IT'S ONLY HYPO-THETICAL.
BUT SINCE THIS COLLAR RESTRICTS ME FROM USING MY MAGIC, I HAVE NO MEANS TO DEFEND MYSELF.
I'M HELPLESS. I'D GET KNOCKED AROUND LIKE A PUNCHING BAG IN THIS CARRIAGE.
WELL, I WOULDN'T DIE...
...THE FACT THAT I'M A VAMPIRE.
SO?
...BUT HERE IS WHERE THE PROBLEM ARISES...
ONE CHARACTER-ISTIC OF A VAMPIRE'S BLOOD...
...IS THAT IT AUTOMATICALLY HEALS ANY DAMAGE TO THE BODY.

THEN, AFTER THEY SAVAGE ME, MY BODY WILL HEAL ITSELF FROM THEIR ATTACK, SO THEY'LL HAVE ANOTHER GO...AND I'LL HEAL...
AND ON AND ON, IN AN ENDLESS LOOP.
AND THEN I'D BE PREY TO YOUR CURSE.
I IMAGINE THOSE HOUNDS WILL BE ONLY TOO GLAD TO TEAR ME APART THE MOMENT THEY GET THEIR SIGNAL.
WHICH IS TO SAY, I'D END UP USING MY MAGIC, REGARDLESS OF MY OWN WILL IN THE MATTER.
THAT IS... UNTIL MY MAGIC FINALLY RUNS OUT.
GOTO (CLUNK)
GOTO
.....SO, WHAT'RE YOU SAYIN', EXACTLY?
YOUR MISSION...
...IS TO DELIVER ME TO MY DESTINATION SAFELY.
ALIVE, THAT IS.
DO DO DO DO DO (GALLOP)

IN FACT, IT'S A VERY RISKY METHOD OF CONFINEMENT, UNDER WHICH I COULD BE KILLED BY A MERE SCRATCH.
.....
YOU TRYIN' TO THREATEN ME?
YOU MIGHT HAVE PUT THIS COLLAR ON ME TO KEEP ME UNDER CONTROL...
...BUT IN DOING SO, YOU'VE MADE AN ENORMOUS MISCALCULATION.
I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE AWARE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
HA-HA... I WON'T TRY ANYTHING.
DON'T GET ANY WEIRD IDEAS...
... PROTECT ME?
PAAN (POP)
SO, WOULD YOU...

ゴトン
GOTON
(GATUNK)
ゴトン
GOTON
ガタ
GATA
(RATTLE)
HEY, HEY, I'M A DELICATE FLOWER NOW—DON'T GET TOO VIOLENT.
YOU ARE ONE ICKY BASTARD!!
THEN FACE THAT WAY!! YA FOUR-EYED CREEPER!!
KACHA
(CLICK)
HYPERSPACE NET
Unknown
Dimensional
Liz's Toy Box
BIP!

DON
(DMM)
WHEW... HERE WE ARE...
Here


WEL-
COME...
...TO
HYDRA.
OOOOO
(WHOOOO)

WHY...DID YOU BRING ME TO THIS PLACE THAT LOOKS JUST LIKE THE ANIME I SAW YESTERDAY...?
I THINK... STAZ-SAN OR LIZ-CHAN WOULD...
OH, RIGHT, I SHOULD HAVE EXPLAINED FIRST...
I'LL GIVE YOU A TOUR.
OH!
UM...
C'MON.
OKAY... BUT...

I SEE ...
SO I WAS KIDNAPPED ...
...AND STAZ-SAN AND BELL-SAN ARE ...
.....
...WE WERE ABLE TO GET IN HERE WHILE MY SISTER KEEPS STAZ AT BAY.
AND I WAS ABLE TO LET YOU OUT.
...SO THAT'S HOW...
BUT THAT STAZ GUY...
PORI (SCRATCH)
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE WE CARRIED YOU OFF BECAUSE WE WANTED TO...
WHA...
...I DIDN'T THINK HE'D ACTUALLY COME AFTER YOU.
HE REALLY DOES CARE ABOUT YOU...

ONLY THOSE OF HYDRA CAN USE THE DOOR...
...BUT ...
...HE CAN'T MAKE IT HERE, AND YOU CAN'T ESCAPE.
N...NO, I'M NOT!
OOH, YOU'RE BLUSHING!
YOU SURE ARE! AH-HA-HA!! THAT'S ADORABLE.
PLEASE STOP IT!!
STAZ-SAN...
.....
WELL, LET'S GO...

DO
DO
DO
DO
DO GROOND
IT'S A GAME. IF YOU WIN...
...I'LL TAKE YOU TO FUYUMIN.
POKI (CRACK)
POKI (CRACK)
... HOLD ON...

WHAT'RE YOU FLYING OFF THE HANDLE FOR!?
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE PISSED OFF!
THEN C'MON AND FIGHT ME, NERDPIRE!!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOT IT WRONG!!
THIS ISN'T ANY TIME TO BE—
YOU'VE GOT IT COMPLETELY WRONG.
SHUT IT, YOU BLOOD-SUCKING NERD!!

WEREN'T YOU ALL READY TO KICK MY ASS UNTIL I CRIED UNCLE?

SO C'MON AND TRY!
.....
THAT'S WHY YOU GOT THE BULLET TAKEN OUT, RIGHT?

IF YOU CAN KEEP UP...

!
クン…
KUN
(VWOOP)
BUA
(FWA)
コツン
KON
(CLUNK)
IS SHE INSIDE THAT DIE...?
WHA
...
シュババ
SHUBABA
(SHOOP)

BO
(BOOM)
RAAH!
FUWA
(FLUTTER)
フワ
FUWA
フワ
KUH
...
カチャ
KACHA
(CLACK)
FUWA
フワ
FUWA
フワ
...THE HELL IS THIS...?
HOW DOES THIS WORK...?

DON
(BLAM)
THAT'S HOW IT WORKS.
FU
(FWOO)
SU
(SWSH)

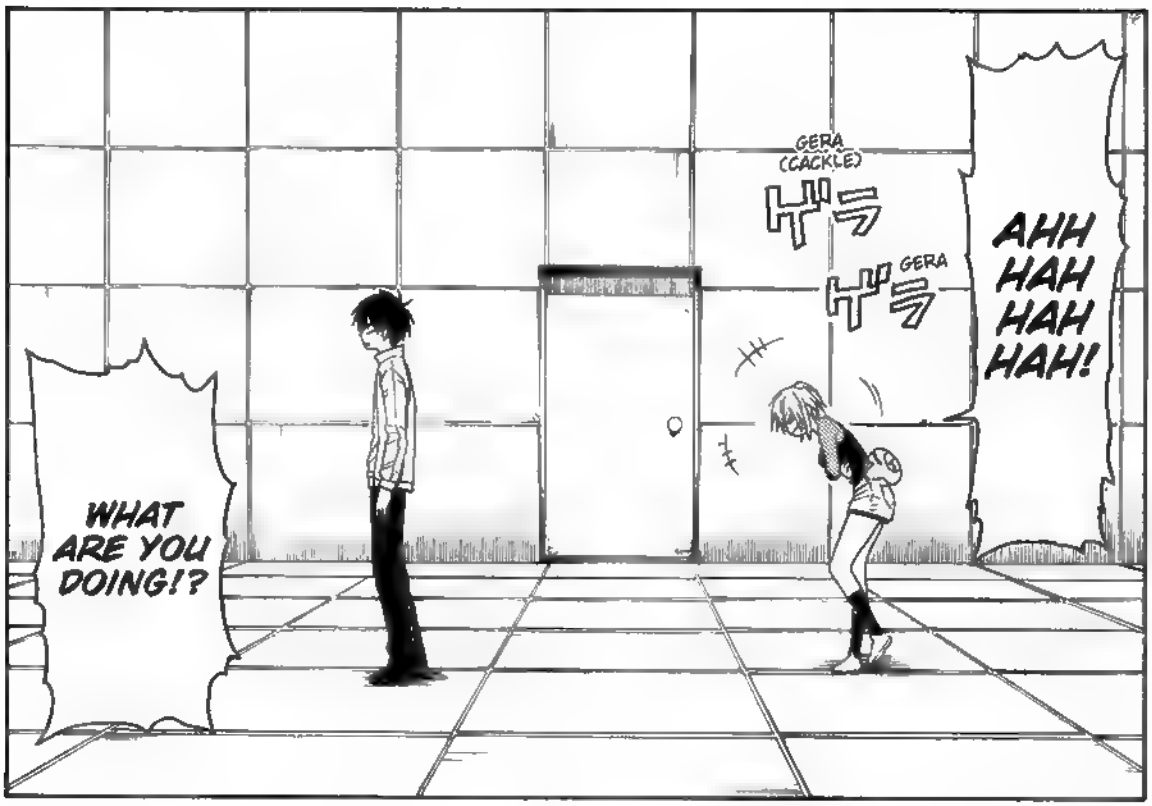
(VOOM)
スゥ…
suu
SO, YOU REALLY CAN'T KEEP UP...
NOT GONNA WORK.
YOU ALREADY TRIED THAT ONE.

NOTE: A REFERENCE TO THE MAIN CHARACTER OF THE MARTIAL ARTS MANGA FIST OF THE NORTH STAR. *THE BULLET HOLES IN THE SHIRT RESEMBLE THE CONSTELLATION-SHAPED SCARS ON KENSHIRO'S CHEST.*

SURE, THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
'CAUSE I WON'T LOSE.
...BUT IF YOU LOSE, YOU GIVE UP ON FUYUMIN...
...AND BECOME MY SLAVE FOR LIFE. HOW'S THAT?
I'M GONNA GO RE-EQUIP.
OH, OKAY. COULD YOU GET ME A CUP OF PUNCH TOO?
...YOU LOOK LIKE A FRICKIN' HORS D'OEUVRE ON A CRACKER.
YOU DON'T GET TO SAY ANYTHING, ALL YOU'RE EXPOSING IS YOUR FACE...
TRY SAYIN' THAT AGAIN WHEN YOU CAN STAND UP.

OKAY, STAZ, CALM DOWN... TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND USE YOUR HEAD, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS KIND OF TOO WELL VENTILATED FOR A BIT.
THERE'S NO POINT IN ATTACKING THESE FLOATY THINGS...
...WHEN THESE THINGS ARE JUST FLOATING AROUND, WITHOUT EVEN MAKING A SOUND OR A BREEZE?
BUT HOW CAN I FIGURE THAT OUT...
PIN (DING)
IF I CAN TELL WHEN SHE'S ABOUT TO ATTACK AND CATCH HER...
GA (GRAB)
ZURURI (DRAG)
...THEN I COULD DRAG HER OUT AND WIN THIS THING...
THAT'S IT...! I HAVE TO FEEL IT, NOT WATCH FOR IT...
SU (INHALE)

HM?
YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES AND IT MAKES EVERYTHING CLEARER...
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? IT'S JUST LIKE I READ ABOUT IN A MANGA...
THE NOISE AROUND ME STOPPED...
PFF... HEH HEH...
IT'S JUST DEAD SILENT.


WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
GERA (CACKLE)
ゲラ
ゲラ GERA
AHH HAH HAH HAH!

THIS IS... OHH...!
.....

I DIDN'T THINK IT'D BE THAT EASY TO GET YOU IN HERE!
GETTING TELE-PORTED YOURSELF!

HEEEE!
YOU WERE ONLY TRYING TO GUARD AGAINST ATTACKS ...
...AND YOU TOTALLY FORGOT WHAT YOU SHOULD REALLY BE DEFENDING YOURSELF AGAINST—

DO (WHAM)
AH HA HA HA!!
BLIN (VWOOSH)
BO (BWOOM)

ドゴゴゴ
DOGO (WHOOM)
!
HOW MANY TRIES IS IT GONNA TAKE BEFORE YOU GET IT THROUGH YOUR HEAD?
SO Y'SEE, YOU CAN'T WIN.
...PID.
YOU REALLY ARE STU...

C'MON, SAY IT, JUST LIKE BEFORE.
"I GIVE UP."
BETTER HURRY UP AND ACCEPT YOUR DEFEAT...
.....
YOU ALREADY KNOW FROM EXPERI-ENCE.
ONCE YOU'RE IN HERE, IT'S CHECKMATE.

SORRY ...
...BUT I'M NOT THE SAME ME I WAS BEFORE.
NII
CGRIND

ACTUALLY.
SO CAN I.
IT'S THE PHYSICAL EMBODI-MENT OF YOUR MAGIC, RIGHT?
THIS THING ...
WELL, Y'KNOW ... NOT LIKE I BRAG ABOUT IT.
SO YOU CAN DO THAT TOO, HUH.
...BUT THERE'S ONE THING I WANNA CHECK.
RIGHT. YEAH, IT WAS POINT-LESS...
WELL, DUH. YOU'VE BEEN POINTLESSLY THROWING IT AROUND THE WHOLE TIME.
?
DID GETTING CORNERED MAKE YOUR HEAD ALL FUNNY OR SOME-THING?
...WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU CAN SEE IT RIGHT THERE.
...YOU CAN MAKE IT APPEAR AND DISAPPEAR AT WILL, RIGHT? BUT IT'S STILL OUT NOW?
SO THAT THING ...

WELL, IT'S JUST... MINE'S STILL OUT TOO.
ACTUALLY.

HUH?
GA (GRAB)
HUH?

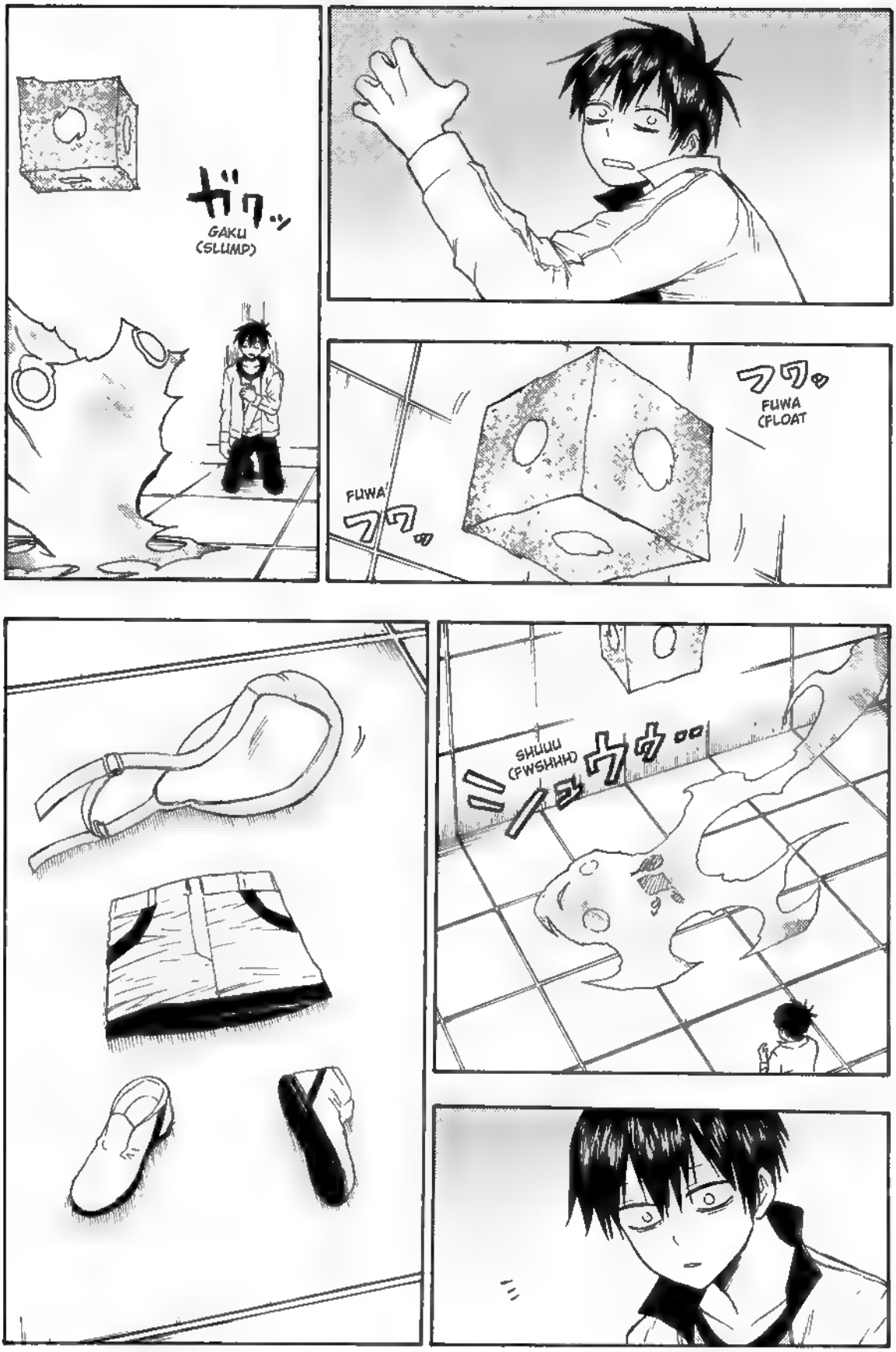
I WASN'T JUST TRYING THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER LIKE A ONE-TRICK PONY, Y'KNOW.
I WAS FIGURING IT OUT.
AH HAH HAH HAH HAH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
HEY... LEMME GO!

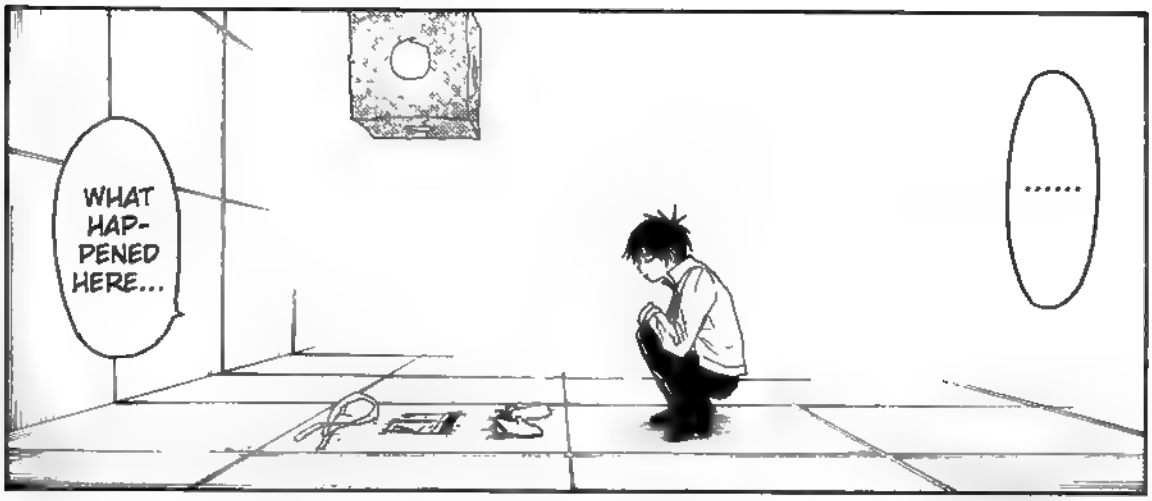
YOU GOT SO WRAPPED UP IN LECTURING ME, YOU DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE MY MAGIC GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER.
YOU GET IT NOW?
GUH ...!
THE REASON YOU LOST WAS BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT I'M SOME KIND OF MORON WHO COULDN'T DO ANYTHING BUT THROW PUNCHES.
AND BECAUSE YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN ONCE I WAS IN YOUR OWN TERRITORY.

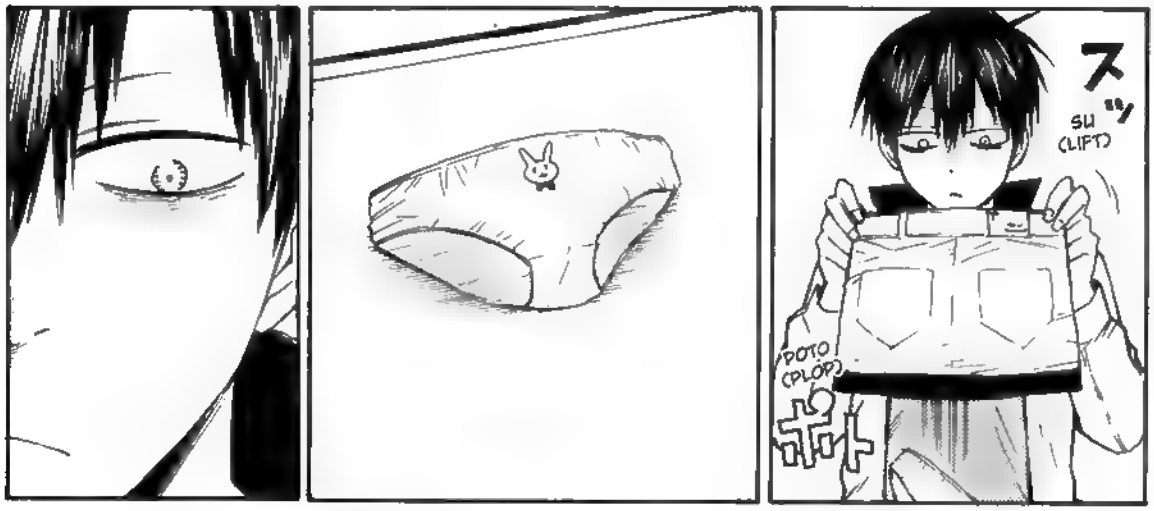
UGH!
GICHICHI (STRAIN)
ギチ
SAY IT.
SO LET'S HEAR YOU SAY IT— "I GIVE UP."
OR ELSE YOU CAN SAY GOOD-BYE TO YOUR LEGS.

BLLA (FWOOM)
I DID LET MY GUARD DOWN... BUT THIS SORT OF MAGIC...
SHUBA (SHOOP)
BA
...WHOA!

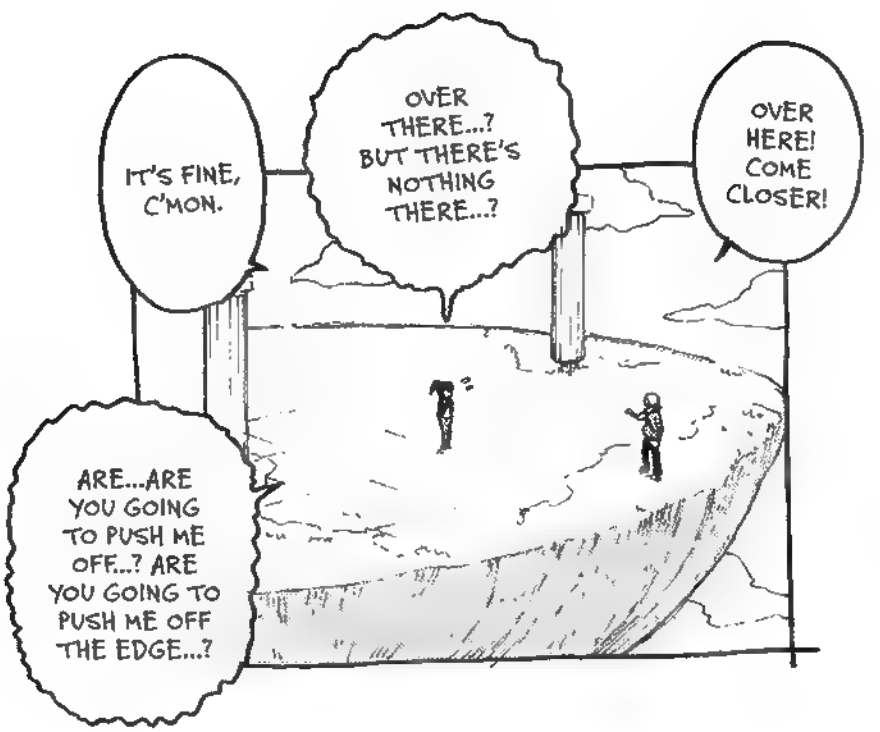
GOKUN
GOKUN (GULP)
DAMN!
BAKU (CHOMP)
...DOESN'T DO A THING IF I CAN GET AWAY FROM YOU.
!
WAIT ...!
BA (LUNGE)
SUPON (PWOP)


ガクッ
GAKU
(SLUMP)
フワッ
FUWA
(FLOAT
FUWA
フワッ
SHUUU
(PWSHHH)
シュウウウ


WHAT HAP-PENED HERE...
.....


スッ
SU (LIFT)
POTO (PLOP)
ポト

♠ To Be Continued ♠


IT'S FINE, C'MON.
OVER THERE...? BUT THERE'S NOTHING THERE...?
OVER HERE! COME CLOSER!
ARE...ARE YOU GOING TO PUSH ME OFF...? ARE YOU GOING TO PUSH ME OFF THE EDGE...?

BLOOD LAD

...IN THOSE COMICS FROM JAPAN YOU LIKE SO MUCH...
THINK OF THE HERO CHARAC-TERS...
OKAY, STAZ... LET'S TALK THIS OVER.
OOH!
... WHAT WOULD THEY DO?
IF THEY FOUND THEM-SELVES IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS...
...AND TAKE A REALLY GOOD WHIFF? THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE SAYIN'?
SO I SHOULD PUT THESE ON MY HEAD...
ピラ
PIRA (TRIANGLE)

CHAPTER 24 ♠ PANSTER ON FIRE

AND YOU COULD TREAT THOSE WITH A LITTLE MORE RESPECT! QUIT HOLDING THEM LIKE IT'S SOMETHING YOU FISHED OUT OF THE GARBAGE!!
THAT'S MORE THAN A GAG!
THAT'S A PRETTY STANDARD JAPANESE GAG.
WHAT THE HELL KIND OF COMICS DO YOU READ!?
NO, YOU PERVERT!!

NOTE: IN THE GAG MANGA ULTIMATE!! HENTAI KAMEN *(LITERALLY "ULTIMATE!! PERVERT MASK") THE MAIN CHARACTER BECOMES A CRIME FIGHTER WHEN HE WEARS UNDIES ON HIS HEAD.*

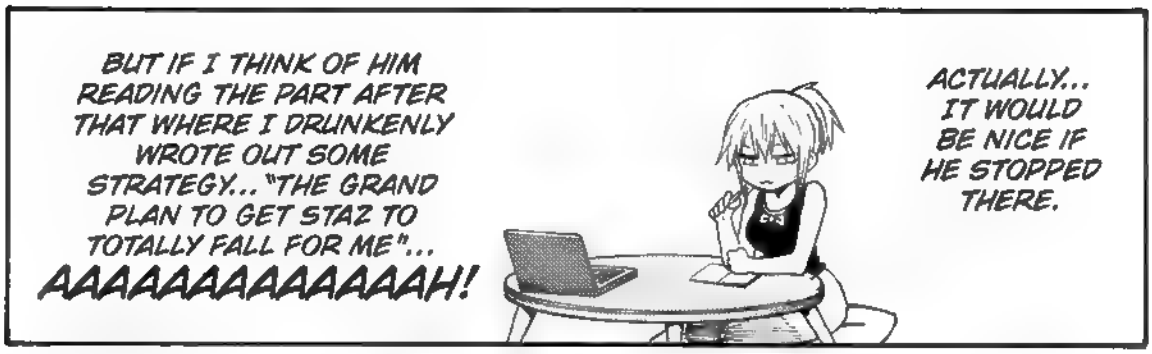
BO
(BWOOM)
THAT WAS CLOSE.
DAMN!
.....
I THOUGHT SO... SOMETHING'S OFF.
GYU
(GRIP)

...BUT AS COMPLETELY NON-CREEPY NEGOTIATION MATERIAL.
.....NOT IN A CREEPY WAY...
...I THOUGHT, OH! SWEET, I CAN USE THESE.
WHEN I PICKED THEM UP...
THAT WAS SORT OF THE IDEA...I WAS ALL PREPARED TO DO SOMETHING THAT HUMILIATING...
"AWW, YEAH! IF YOU WANT ME TO GIVE 'EM BACK, ADMIT DEFEAT... OR ELSE..."
...IS TELEPORT BACK TO HER ROOM AND PUT ON SOME NEW CLOTHES IN HER OWN SWEET TIME.
BECAUSE ALL BELL HAS TO DO, ONCE SHE'S DONE LOOKING AT ME LIKE I'M THE NASTIEST PIECE OF GARBAGE...
.....
...BUT I QUICKLY REALIZED EVEN THAT WOULDN'T WORK.
I'M GLAD I DIDN'T SERIOUSLY GO THROUGH WITH IT...
...
LEAVING ME HERE IN MY SHAME.
FOR AN OBVIOUS REASON.

BELL SAID...
AND AS I STOOD THERE, PARTLY A CLOWN...
SO, WITH MY QUICK WITS, I WAS ABLE TO AVOID BECOMING A TRAGIC CLOWN...
OKAY, STAZ... LET'S TALK THIS OVER.
BUT SADLY, I ONLY FIGURED THAT OUT AFTER I'D ALREADY GRABBED ALL THE STUFF.
DOESN'T SHE REALIZE THAT?
WHAT'S GOING ON...? SHE COULD JUST ESCAPE AND LEAVE ME IN HERE...
I DON'T KNOW, BUT... I CAN'T THINK OF ANOTHER EXPLANATION ...
ARE THEY ACTUALLY A RARE ITEM?
OR ARE THESE, LIKE, HER FAVORITE PAIR OR SOMETHING...?

...WITH THIS EXPRES-SION.
SHE'S NOT EVEN THINKING OF RUNNING OFF, SHE'S JUST STARING AT ME ALL NERVOUS, LIKE I'M ABOUT TO DO SOMETHING...
WHAT DO I DO?
.....
THESE UNDIES ARE TREA-SURE.
THAT MUST BE IT...
GYU (CLENCH)
NI (SMIRK)

IN MY BAG...
...IF STAZ SEES THAT, I'LL REALLY BE IN FOR IT.
HONESTLY, I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT MY UNDIES... OKAY, I CARE A LITTLE, BUT...
...WHERE I KEEP A RECORD OF ALL THE THINGS I WANT...
TREASURE NOTE
...MY SECRET NOTEBOOK, THE TREASURE NOTE...
AND IF HE SEES WHAT I'VE WRITTEN THERE... I SHALL DIE IN A BLAZE OF BURNING SHAME!!
THERE'S A PAGE CALLED "STAZ."
GO
GO (RUMBLE)
PURU
PURU (TREMBLE)


BUT IF I THINK OF HIM READING THE PART AFTER THAT WHERE I DRUNKENLY WROTE OUT SOME STRATEGY... "THE GRAND PLAN TO GET STAZ TO TOTALLY FALL FOR ME"...
AAAAAAAAAAAAAH!
ACTUALLY... IT WOULD BE NICE IF HE STOPPED THERE.

I WANT TO CRAWL INTO A HOLE AND STAY THERE FOR A WEEK!!
AAAH!
AAAH!
WHY DID I EVER WRITE DOWN SOMETHING LIKE THAT!?

NOT JUST BECAUSE HE'LL KNOW HOW I FEEL, BUT BECAUSE THEN...
...
...ANYWAY... IF HE SEES THAT, IT'S ALL OVER FOR ME...

THANK YOU FOR READING!
THE END
GOOD-BYE.

.....
.....
—IS DEFI-NITELY WHAT'LL HAAAP-PEEEN!
JIII (ZIIIP)
SINCE APPARENTLY THEY'RE SO IMPORTANT... FU-FU-FU...
WELL, I'M JUST GONNA PUT THESE IN HERE...

NOOOOO!!
MAN, YOU REALLY GOT A LOT OF STUFF IN—
HM?
-SCATTER-
LESSEE...
HM... MM?
SU (SWSH)

たしっ
TASHI (TOUCH)
DOKI
DOKI (BADMP)
SOO (SNEAK)
WHAT, YOUR-SELF?
WHAT?
GASHI (GRAB)
HOW ABOUT ...
LET IT GO.
...YOU LET GO?
GA (GRAB)

JAKIN
(KACHIK)
...AH-HA...
...NOW I GET IT.
SAME AS THAT TIME AT ONIQLO...
...YOU'RE ALWAYS USING UNDIES AS A BLUFF.
YOU CAN KNOCK MY HEAD CLEAN OFF, AND IT'LL GET YOU NOWHERE. DON'T YOU KNOW THAT ALREADY?
.....
READ IT, AND I'LL SHOOT!!
BUT THE REAL DEAL IS THIS.

DON (BLAM)
WHOA!
YOU BETTER GET THAT THROUGH YOUR HEAD.
GUN (YANK)

...COME ON OUT AND WE'LL TAKE A LOOK TOGETHER.
WELL...
TREASURE NOTE

AAAH! HEEEY!!
WHAT IS IT?
ペラ
PERA (FLIP)
TREASURE NOTE VOLUME FIVE?
.....
NOPE, SORRY.
QUIT IT!!
CLIMBING THAT MOUNTAIN WAS SOOO HARD. AND I WAS STARVING ...
NO. 163. GOURMET FLOWER (OBTAINED) ...IMPRESSIONS:
NEXT PAGE ...
KEPU (COUGH)
ケフ゜
YOU WIN! I GIVE UP!!
WHAT, SO THIS IS PRETTY MUCH A DIARY? SORTA-DIARY?
OKAY! I GET IT, OKAY, DON'T READ ANY MORE!!
DON
DON (SMACK)
DON
DON
I'LL SAY IT!! I'LL SAY IT I'LL SAY IT I'LL SAY IT!!

ズボ
ZUBO (POP)
AH!
THAT'S WHAT I NEEDED TO HEAR.
AH.
ER, WAI—
GACHA (CHAK)

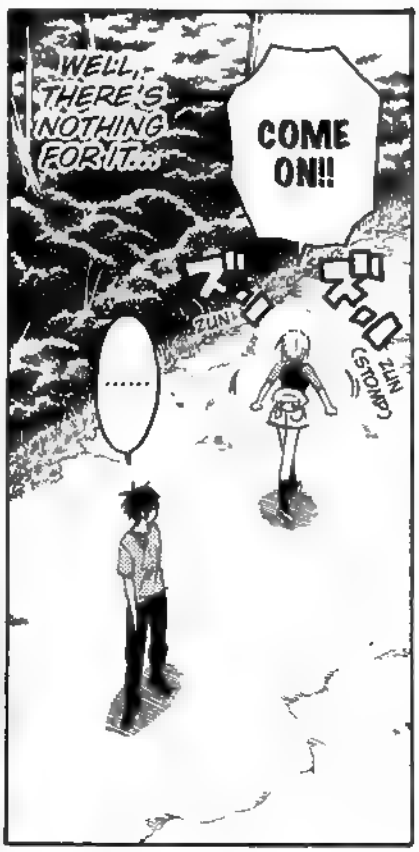
SFX: KACHI (CLICK) KACHI KACHI KACHI KACHI KACHI KACHI
I DIDN'T MEAN ...
I FOR-GOT...
UH...
ドク ドク ドク
WAIT ...
カチ カチ カチ カチ カチ カチ カチ
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
ドドド

フラ
FURA
フラ
FURA (WOBBLE)
Y... YEAH, WELL ...
...YOU REALLY DID A NUM-BER ON ME...
LOST TOO MUCH BLOOD.
I MEAN ...
NOPE.
...HEY, ARE YOU ACTUALLY OKAY?
I DON'T GET IT... YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SNAPPED AND WANTED TO HAVE A BATTLE...
...BUT THEN AS SOON AS I SAW YOUR DIARY, YOU JUST GAVE RIGHT UP...
YOU'RE WEIRD.
ポリ (SCRITCH)
ポリ
PORI

C'MON, LET'S GO SAVE YOUR BELOVED FUYUMIN!!
YES, OF COURSE I'LL HELP YOU!! BECAUSE I LOST!!
GAH— NEVER MIND!!
HUH?
.....
THAT'S YOUR FAULT.

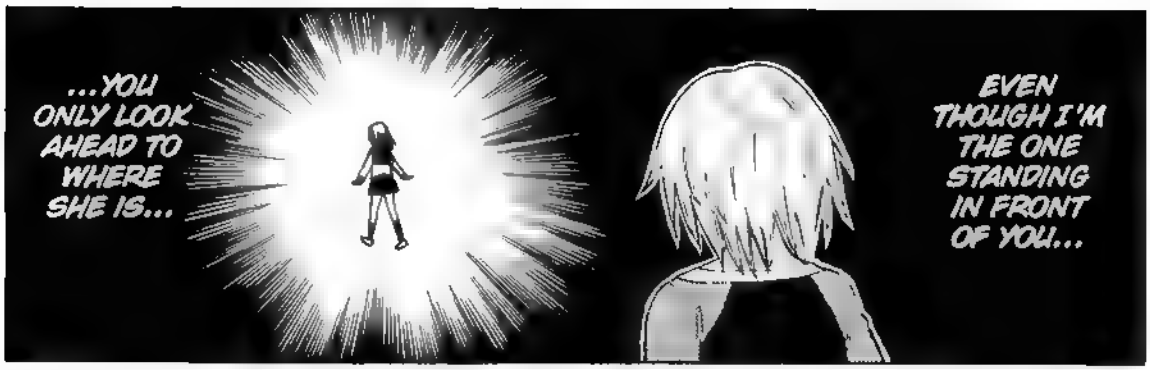
...UH.
YEAH.

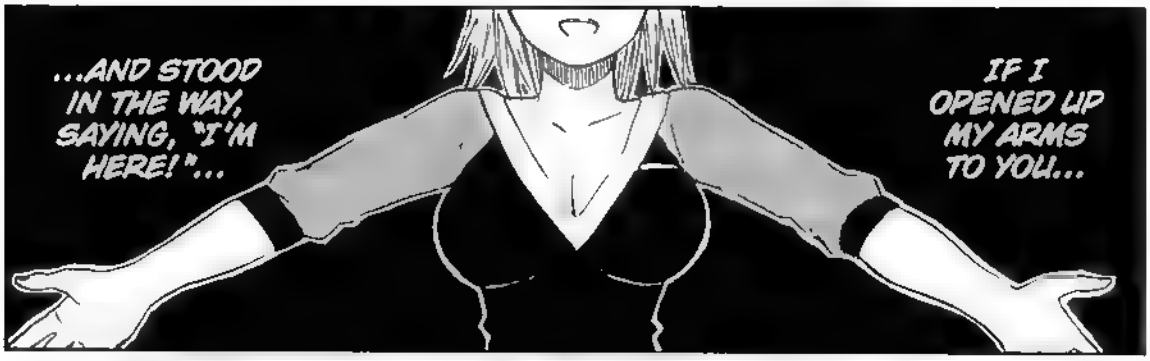
YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT HER...
?


WELL, THERE'S NOTHING FOR IT...
COME ON!!
ZUN!
ZUN (STOMP)
.....

GOT A CASE OF TUNNEL VISION...
SO SERIOUS YOU CAN'T SEE ANYTHING ELSE...

LIKE AN IDIOT.
...EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN GET HER BACK...
EVEN THOUGH YOU SHOULD JUST GIVE UP ON FUYUMIN...
...EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE SPILLED TOO MUCH OF YOUR OWN BLOOD...
...ALL YOU THINK OF IS GIVING SOME TO HER.


...YOU ONLY LOOK AHEAD TO WHERE SHE IS...
EVEN THOUGH I'M THE ONE STANDING IN FRONT OF YOU...


...AND STOOD IN THE WAY, SAYING, "I'M HERE!"...
IF I OPENED UP MY ARMS TO YOU...

...AND YOU WALKED RIGHT THROUGH ME...

...THEN I'D BE THE IDIOT...
TREASURE NOTE

AND I'D HAVE TO SAY "I GIVE UP," AND ADMIT DEFEAT...
ポン
PON (PAT)
じわ
JIWA (TEARY)

...I'M THE ONE WHO DID SOMETHING WRONG.

WHAT?

I DUNNO HOW, BUT...

I REALIZED NOT TOO LONG AGO...
...THAT WHATEVER I TRY TO DO, AT THE ROOT OF IT, THERE'S USUALLY SOMETHING I'VE DONE WRONG.
SO PROBABLY THE REASON YOU GOT SO WOUND UP IS MY FAULT TOO, I'M GUESSING.
.....OR, WELL, EVEN IF IT ISN'T ...
...YOU CAN BLAME ME ANYWAY.

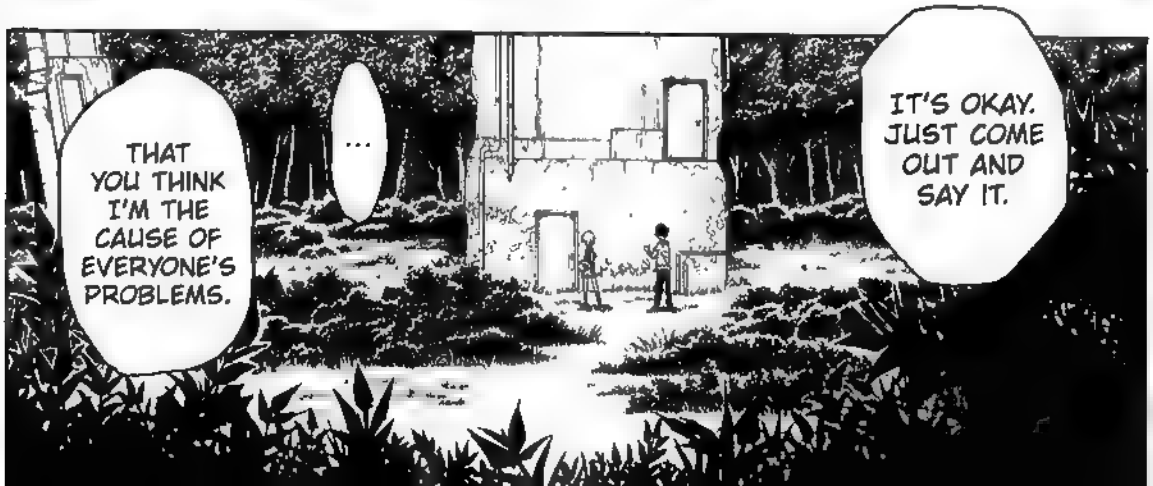
...WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO SAY...?
.....I MEAN...
...I WAS ...
...TRYING TO THINK OF WHAT THE HERO OF A MANGA WOULD SAY AT A TIME LIKE THIS...

WHAT D'YOU MEAN, A TIME LIKE THIS?
WELL, LISTEN, OKAY?
I WAS TRYING TO THINK OF IT THAT WAY, BUT I COULDN'T COME UP WITH ANYTHING.
SO I FIGURED IT MUST BE BECAUSE I'M ACTUALLY MORE LIKE THE BAD GUY.

SO IF YOU'RE MAD ABOUT SOMETHING, YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND KNOCK ME AROUND FOR IT.
AND YELL "IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!"

I WON'T APOLOGIZE, THOUGH.
'CAUSE I'M THE BAD GUY.

.....
WHAT THE HELL?

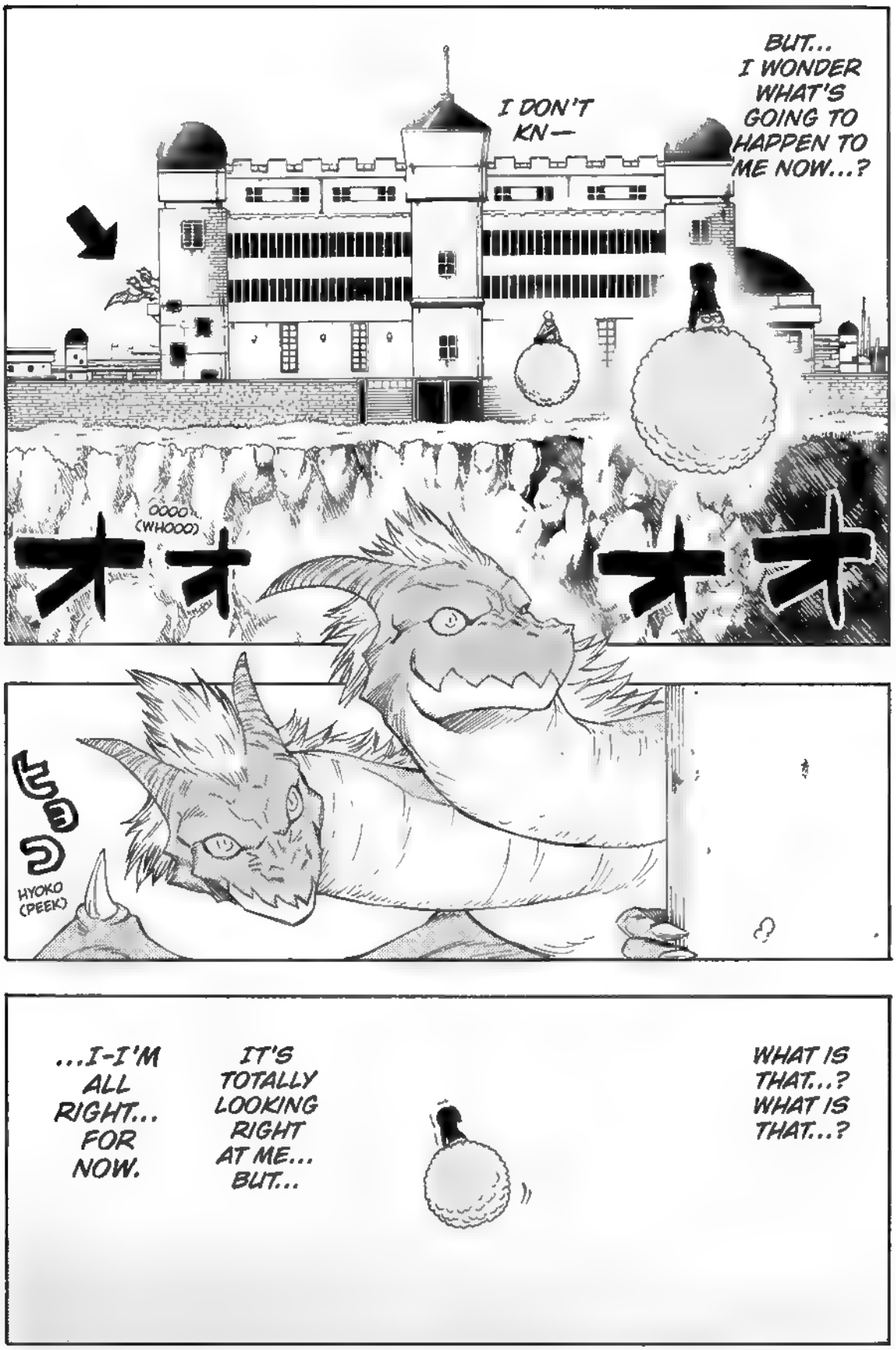

IT'S OKAY. JUST COME OUT AND SAY IT.
...
THAT YOU THINK I'M THE CAUSE OF EVERYONE'S PROBLEMS.

C'MON, LET'S GO.
UH-HUH, RIGHT, THANKS.
I'M YOUR —
HEY!
GACHA (GACHAK)
YEAH, YEAH.
BUT YOU REALLY ARE THE CAUSE OF MY PROBLEMS.
THE CAUSE OF EVERYONE'S PROBLEMS? GIMME A BREAK.
...WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? I WAS JUST TRYING TO...

IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, YOU DUMBASS!

FUWA
FUWA
FUWA
(FLOAT)
RIGHT NOW I'M TRAVELING ...
...THROUGH A PLACE THAT LOOKS LIKE LAPUTA ON SOME KIND OF CREATURE THAT LOOKS LIKE A COMBINATION BETWEEN GACHAPIN AND MUKKU.
STAZ-SAN...
OKAY ...
WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
ANYWAY, I'M ALL RIGHT FOR NOW.
...ACTUALLY, I THINK I'M ABOUT TO PEE MYSELF A LITTLE...
...BUT I HAVEN'T!
I'M HIGH UP...I'M SCARED...

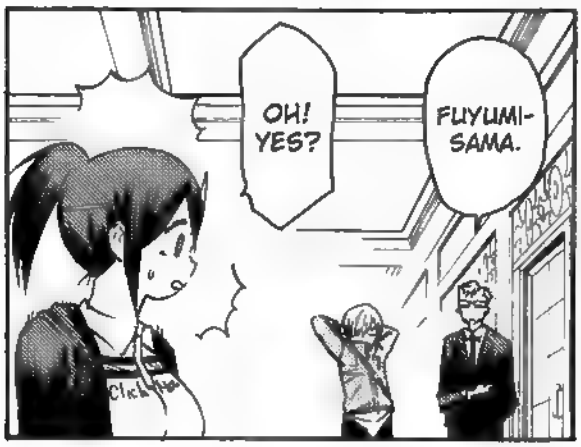
NOTE: LAPUTA: CASTLE IN THE SKY IS A STUDIO GHIBLI FILM FEATURING A FLOATING KINGDOM ABOVE THE CLOUDS. GACHAPIN (A GREEN, BUCK-TOOTHED DINOSAUR) AND MUKKU (A RED YETI) ARE CHARACTERS FROM THE POPULAR FUJI TV CHILDREN'S SHOW HIRAKE! PONKIKKI.


BUT... I WONDER WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME NOW...?
I DON'T KN—
オオ
OOOO (WHOOO)
オオ
ヒョコ
HYOKO (PEEK)
?
...I-I'M ALL RIGHT... FOR NOW.
IT'S TOTALLY LOOKING RIGHT AT ME... BUT...
WHAT IS THAT...? WHAT IS THAT...?

IT WAS SO SCARY, I FELT LIKE I WAS DEAD!
WELL, HERE WE ARE.
PHEW!
WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN? YOU'RE A GHOST.
SUTO (LAND)
ストッ
WHA ...
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE COMPLETED YOUR MISSION SAFELY.
WELCOME HOME, MASTER KNELL.
D-
D-
D-
CONGRAT-ULATIONS, SIR.
DADDY!?

WHAT'S WRONG?
...ER...
?
?
.....I MEAN...
.....
NOTH-ING...
Here
EXCEPT HE'S BLOND, AND HIS GLASSES ARE FANCIER... AND, WELL, HE'S GOT HORNS...
IT'S NOT HIM... BUT THIS DEMON LOOKS JUST LIKE HIM...
...ACTUALLY,...
WHAT WAS I THINKING...? ALTHOUGH...
...OKAY...
YOU MUST BE FUYUMI-SAMA. WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, MISS.
PLEASE, RIGHT THIS WAY.
...BUT FROM BEHIND, HE LOOKS LIKE DAD TOO...
...HE'S NOT EXACTLY THE SAME...

GOOON
(DUUUUM)


OH! YES?
FUYUMI-SAMA.

WOW.
IT'S HUGE...

PLEASE TAKE A FEW MOMENTS AND RELAX.
WE'VE PREPARED A ROOM FOR YOU OVER HERE.

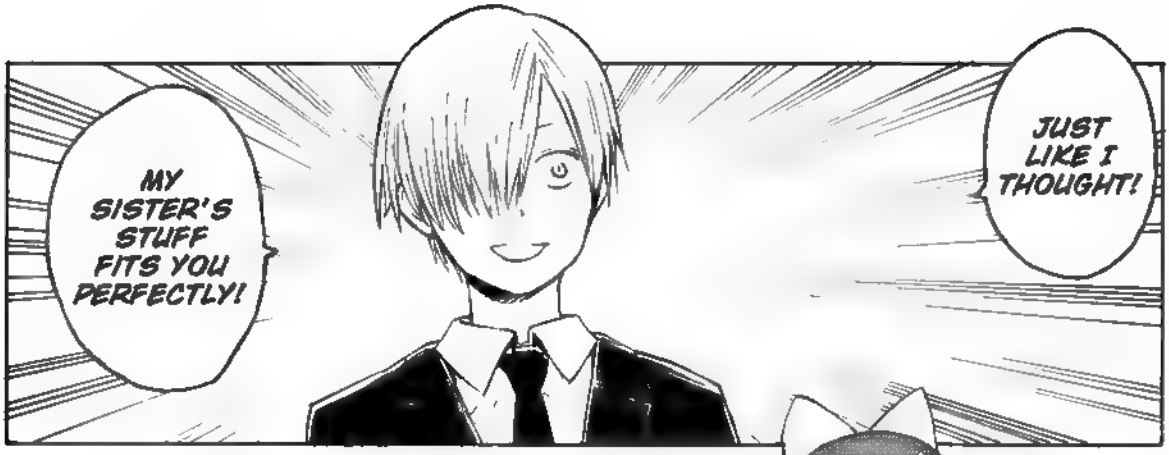
THAT'S ...
...THE THING I SAW ...

I WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN NEYN-SAMA IS READY...
ZAAAA (SHAAAA)
アアア
FOUR-TEEN YEARS?
YES... IT'S ALREADY BEEN THAT LONG...

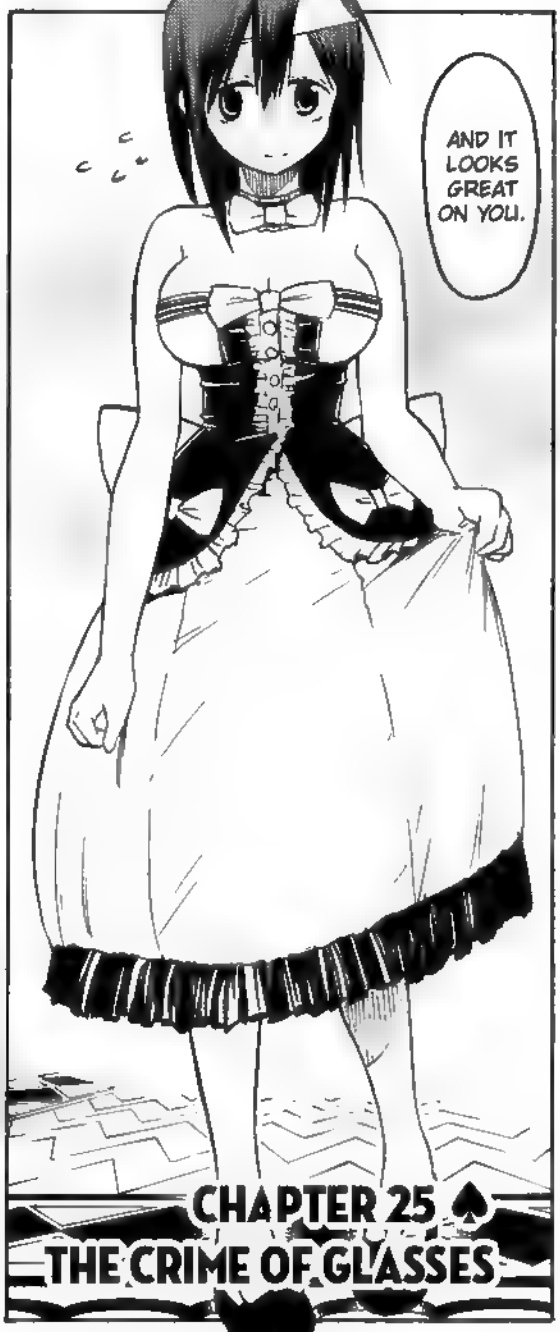
♠ To Be Continued ♠

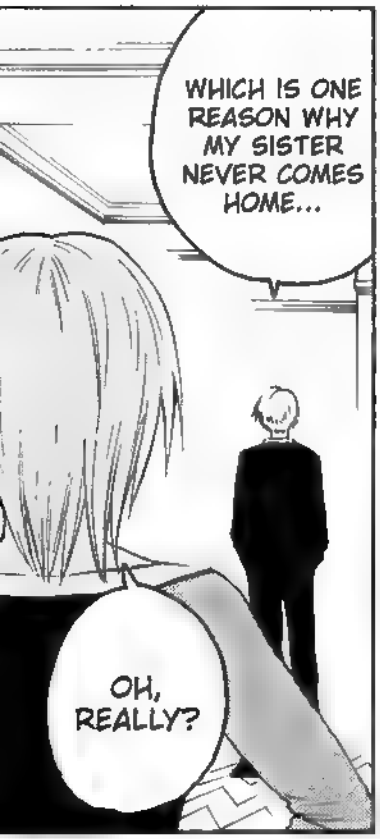
SO, PUT YOUR CLOTHES IN HERE, OKAY?
HUH...?

BLOOD LAD



SFX: FURI (FIDGET) FURI





CHAPTER 25 ♠ THE CRIME OF GLASSES

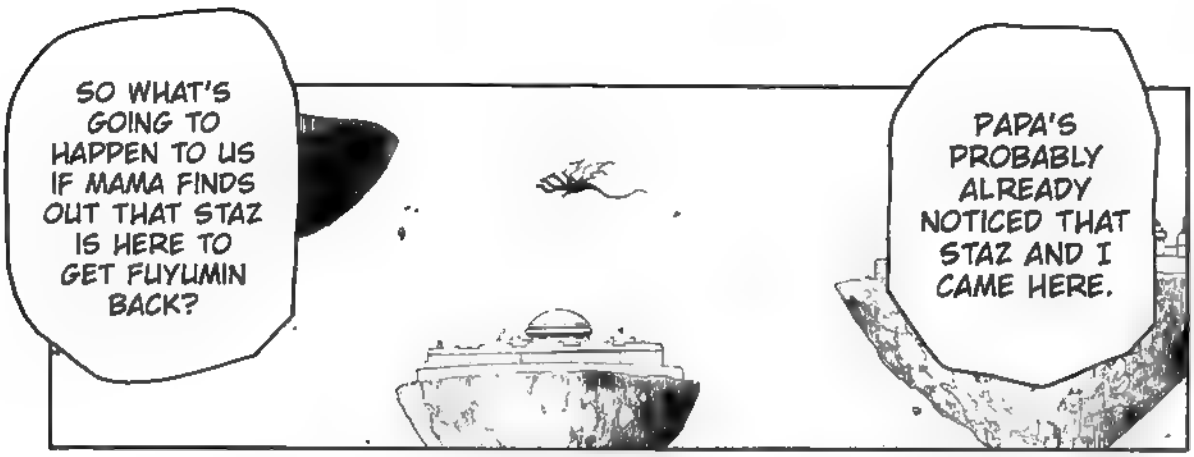
I DO SOMETIMES.
NU (POKE)
WHA ...!?
SHH!!
WHY'D YOU BRING HIM!?
SIS!?

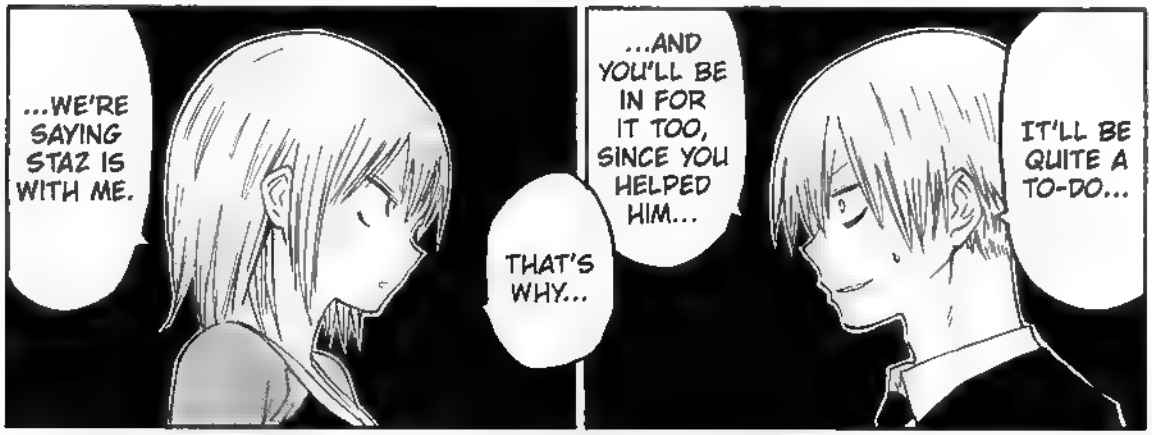
STAZ-SAN!
OH, YOU'RE OKAY.
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, STAZ-SAN!? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOUR SHIRT...
SU (WAVE)

SORRY, BUT I'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU NOW.
SO DON'T TALK TO ME LIKE WE'RE FRIENDS.

HUH ...?
NOW...
...MY HEART BELONGS TO BELL.

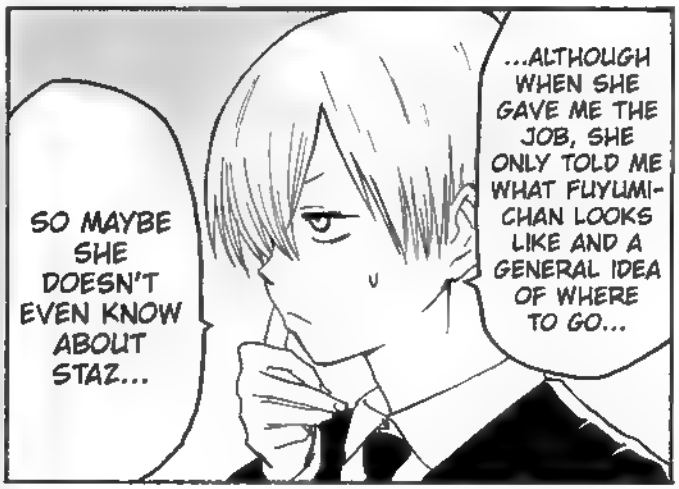
SFX: GOTO (WHUMP), DOKU (SPURT) DOKU


SO WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US IF MAMA FINDS OUT THAT STAZ IS HERE TO GET FUYUMIN BACK?
PAPA'S PROBABLY ALREADY NOTICED THAT STAZ AND I CAME HERE.


...WE'RE SAYING STAZ IS WITH ME.
THAT'S WHY...
...AND YOU'LL BE IN FOR IT TOO, SINCE YOU HELPED HIM...
IT'LL BE QUITE A TO-DO...

PLUS, WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHY MOM WANTED FUYUMIN IN THE FIRST PLACE.
THEN IT'LL WORK.
AND I WANT TO KNOW...

UH...YEAH, WELL, I DIDN'T WANT TO GET IN TROUBLE...
BESIDES, I BET YOU HAVEN'T REPORTED THE LITTLE PROBLEM WITH STAZ CHASING YOU.


SO MAYBE SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT STAZ...
...ALTHOUGH WHEN SHE GAVE ME THE JOB, SHE ONLY TOLD ME WHAT FUYUMI-CHAN LOOKS LIKE AND A GENERAL IDEA OF WHERE TO GO...

SO...
LET'S TAKE HER BACK AFTER WE HEAR WHAT MAMA'S BUSINESS WITH HER IS.
...WHAT DOES FUYUMIN HAVE TO DO WITH ME...?
IT FEELS LIKE WHAT STAZ'S BROTHER SAID AND WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW ARE CONNECTED SOMEHOW...
MUKU (RISE)
ムクッ
I'M INTERESTED IN WHAT IT IS TOO.
IF IT INVOLVES REVIVING HER, I COULD GET BEHIND THAT.
RIGHT.
DEPENDING ON HOW IT GOES, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO JUST LEAVE AFTERWARD.
IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE! IT'S LIKE HE HAS SOMETHING ON YOU!!
SIS, WHY'RE YOU GOING TO ALL THIS TROUBLE FOR STAZ!?
... YEAH, BUT...
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU!?
.....
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU!!

WHAT, ARE YOU IN LO—
GA (WHACK)
I DON'T CARE FOR IT MYSELF.....
WHAT AM I DOING?
GYAAAAA!
GORO (ROLL)
GORO
GORO
PROPOSING THAT WE FAKE THE RELATIONSHIP I WANT TO BE IN...YEAH, I CAN ONLY SAY THOSE THINGS IF THEY'RE LINES IN A PLAY.
C'MON, WE'VE GOTTA CHANGE TOO.
?
THAT'S JUST LIKE ME, ALL RIGHT...

FUYUMI-SAMA, THE MISTRESS WILL SEE YOU NOW.
OH! YES!
KON (KNOCK)
KON
I'M SURE ...
I... I'LL BE FINE.
HEY... WAIT, YOU'RE GOING ALONE?
...SO I'LL SEE YOU LATER ...?
UM... WELL, I'M BEING SUM-MONED ...
I THOUGHT YOU HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ME?
NOW, THEN.
..... HMM?
I'M GOING TOO.
WHAT A DUMB-ASS.
OOH, HE TOOK THAT A LITTLE HARD.
.....
BATAN (SLAM)

WHAT IF SHE'S ALL ALONE AND SOMETHING EATS HER!?
LEMME GO!
DON'T BE STU-PID!
↑ HE'S TRAUMATIZED.
HOW IS THAT A SCENARIO YOU'D EVEN COME UP WITH!?
GACHA (CLACK)
HEY!
THAT FRIEND OF YOURS CERTAINLY IS FULL OF ENERGY.
HA HA HA!
JUST CALM DOWN A MINUTE!
WHAT, SO YOU'RE IN CAHOOTS WITH THEM NOW!?
OH. THEY DO KNOW HE'S HERE.
CA-HOOTS? THEY'RE MY FAMILY!
GI (CREAK)
DOKI
DOKI (BADMP)
THE MISTRESS IS WAITING INSIDE.
OKAY ...

バタン
BATAN (SLAM)
FUYUMI ...
!
YOU ARE FUYUMI ...!
FUYUMI...
YES, MA'AM ...!

I'VE MISSED YOU...
MY FUYUMI .....
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN SO FRIGHTENED ...
IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW.....

BIKU (JUMP)
PARDON ME, BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
.....
PEN (PAT)
PEN
AND HE CAN'T SEE ANYTHING, YOU KNOW?
OH, NOTHING... THIS DUMMY HERE IS SO INTERESTED IN WHAT'S GOING ON...
HOLD UP, WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HUH?
I'VE ONLY HEARD OF YOU FROM YOUR ELDER BROTHER, BUT HE DOES MENTION YOU QUITE A BIT.
IT'S GOOD TO MEET YOU, STAZ-SAN.
HMM? YOU DIDN'T KNOW, SIR?
WUH?
.....

THEY FREQUENTLY EXCHANGE "ELECTRONIC MAILS."
BRAZ-SAMA AND MY MISTRESS NEYN-SAMA HAVE WHAT I UNDERSTAND IS CALLED AN "E-FRIEND" RELATIONSHIP.

Same here.
I don't really wanna know.
I don't know why, but I'm getting a really bad feeling about this.
Wait, wait, wait. What is he up to now? What is it?

THAT BASTARD .....

I'M TAKING HIM TO THE KING.
BRAZ D. BLOOD.
OOO (WHOOO)
WHAT THE HELL IS HE THINKING ...?

OPEN THE GATE.

HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN...
...SINCE I'VE COME HOME TO THIS PLACE...?
HEY, YOU FOUR-EYED JACK-ASS!
WHAT'RE YOU JUST STANDIN' THERE FOR? MOVE IT!
OH, YES... WHAT-EVER YOU SAY...
...MIS-TRESS. ♡
=POP=
IF YOU DON'T QUIT MAKIN' FUN OF ME LIKE THAT, I'M GONNA SMASH THOSE DOPEY GLASSES OF YOURS TO BITS! THAT WHAT YOU WANT!? HUH!?
OFFICER BEROS.
SHAA (HISS)
UH...

THERE IS NO CRIME IN WEARING GLASS-ES!!
I'LL THANK YOU TO REFRAIN FROM SAYING NASTY THINGS ABOUT SOMEONE'S GLASSES.
...
CAPTAIN GOYLE...
.....
YES, SIR. SORRY...
THANK YOU. YOURS TOO.
THEY ARE NICE GLASSES.
I APOLOGIZE FOR MY SUB-ORDINATE'S RUDENESS, BRAZ-KUN.
I'LL JOIN YOU FROM HERE.

THERE'S NO CAUSE FOR ALARM.
I NO LONGER HAVE ANY QUARREL WITH THE KING.
ANYWAY, AT THE MOMENT, I'M BEING RESTRAINED BY YOUR LOVELY OFFICER.
THIS IS JUST ROUTINE PROCEDURE .....
BUT JUST IN CASE...
I COULDN'T TRY ANYTHING EVEN IF I WANTED TO...
ゴゴゴゴゴ
GOGOON (CLAAANG)
...I'M QUITE POWER-LESS, YOU SEE.
ふーん...
HMM... (DING)
ガー
GAA (WHRR)

OOH.

WHY DON'T YOU LOOK HAPPIER TO SEE ME...

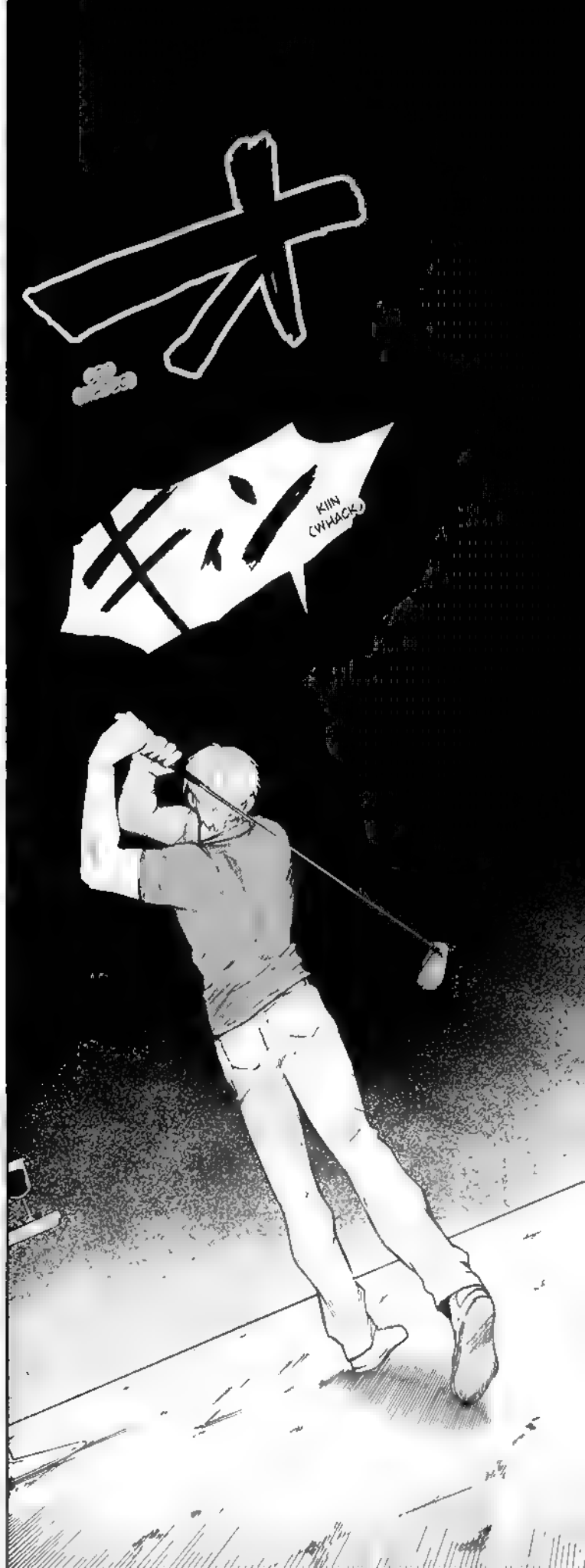
...AFTER ALL THIS TIME?

YOU COULD GIVE ME A BIG SMILE AND A "NICE SHOT!"

BRAZ.

KIIN (WHACK)

OOH.
WHY DON'T YOU LOOK HAPPIER TO SEE ME...
...AFTER ALL THIS TIME?
YOU COULD GIVE ME A BIG SMILE AND A "NICE SHOT!"
BRAZ.


KIIN (WHACK)

PEH.
YOU'RE MAKING SNIDE REMARKS JUST FINE.
...I DON'T CURRENTLY HOLD THE STATUS TO APPROACH THE KING IN SUCH A MANNER.
UNFOR-TUNATELY ...
BOO. REALLY?
IT'S FINE. GO ON.
YOU TOO, LADIES.
BUT, SIRE ...
WHA ...!?
WELL, ANYWAY. YOU TWO, LEAVE US.
ガ!!
GAA (WHIRR)
.....
BETTER GET GOING.

OH, I KNOW THAT.
HE SERIOUSLY CAN'T DO ANYTHING.
IT'S FINE, GOYLE-SAN.
YEAH, I GUESS... IT IS A LITTLE WEIRD...
TELLING US TO BRING HIM, THEN KICKING US OUT AS SOON AS WE DO SO..... WHAT CAN THEY POSSIBLY HAVE TO DISCUSS...?
WHAT THE KING WANTS WITH HIM, I MEAN.
IN WHAT, SIR?
BUT YOU'RE NOT EVEN A LITTLE INTER-ESTED?
OH, IS THAT SO?
I DO IT WHEN INVESTI-GATIONS REQUIRE, NOT AS A HOBBY!!
EXACTLY WHAT SORT OF MAN DO YOU THINK I AM!?
BUT YOU LIKE THAT STUFF, DON'T YOU, GOYLE-SAN?
O-OF COURSE IT IS!!
EAVES-DROPPING IS BAD, Y'KNOW.
I DO NOT!
...IS THAT FOR THE INVESTI-GATION?
OF COURSE IT IS...
I DON'T THINK IT'D BE OUT OF LINE TO DO SOME RESEARCH ON HIM WHILE WE WAIT.
ANY-WAY...

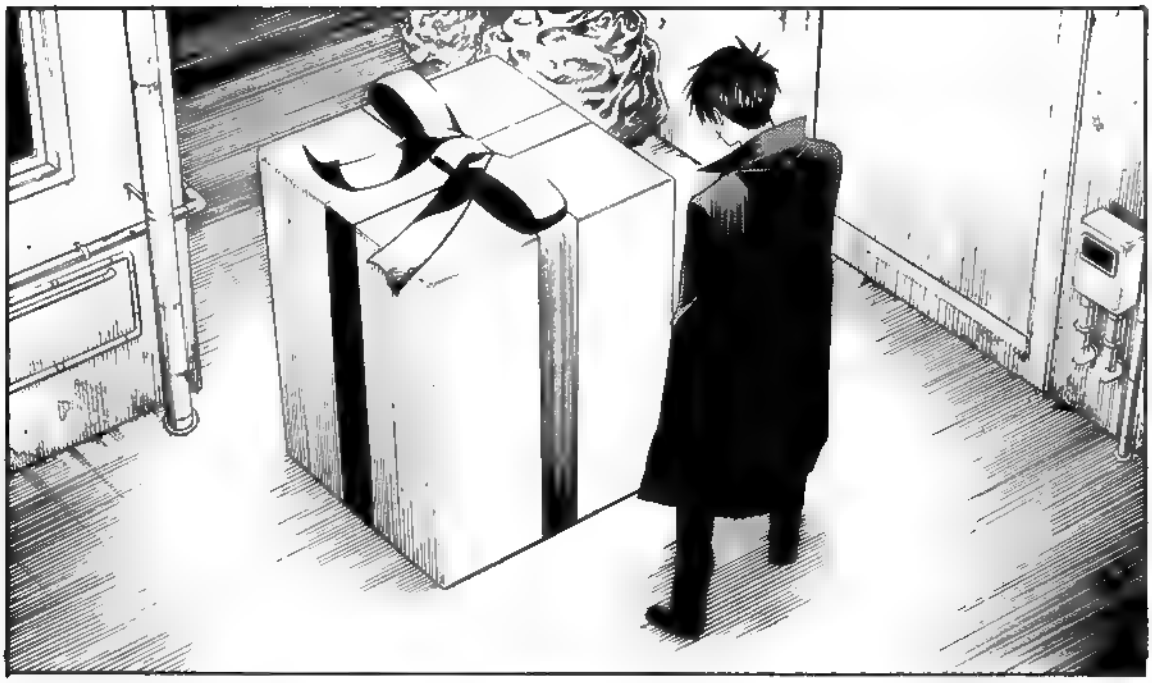
コオオオン
KOOOON
(CLAAAANG)
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
JUST NOW.
?
THE BALL I HIT JUST MADE IT OVER TO THAT DOOR.
.....
WE'RE ALIVE BECAUSE OF THE MAGICAL ESSENCE LEAKING OUT OF THAT HUMONGOUS DOOR.
YES...AND THE KING IS THE ONE IN CHARGE OF THAT DOOR.....
THANKS TO YOU, WE'RE ABLE TO LIVE OUT OUR DAYS IN COMFORT.

IF ALL IT TOOK WAS TO WATCH THE THING...
...ANYBODY COULD DO THAT.
.....
BUT THAT IS THE KING'S DUTY...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IS THAT REALLY WHAT YOU THINK?
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT JOB IS WORTHY OF A KING?
IT'S ALL RIGHT?
HERE, TAKE A SWING.
OH? YOU'RE GETTING INTO IT ALL OF A SUDDEN?
.....UH-HUH...
GUESS IT IS...
I WAS SIMPLY WONDERING IF IT WAS ALL RIGHT FOR YOU TO HAND ME A BLUNT INSTRUMENT LIKE THAT.
NOT AT ALL...

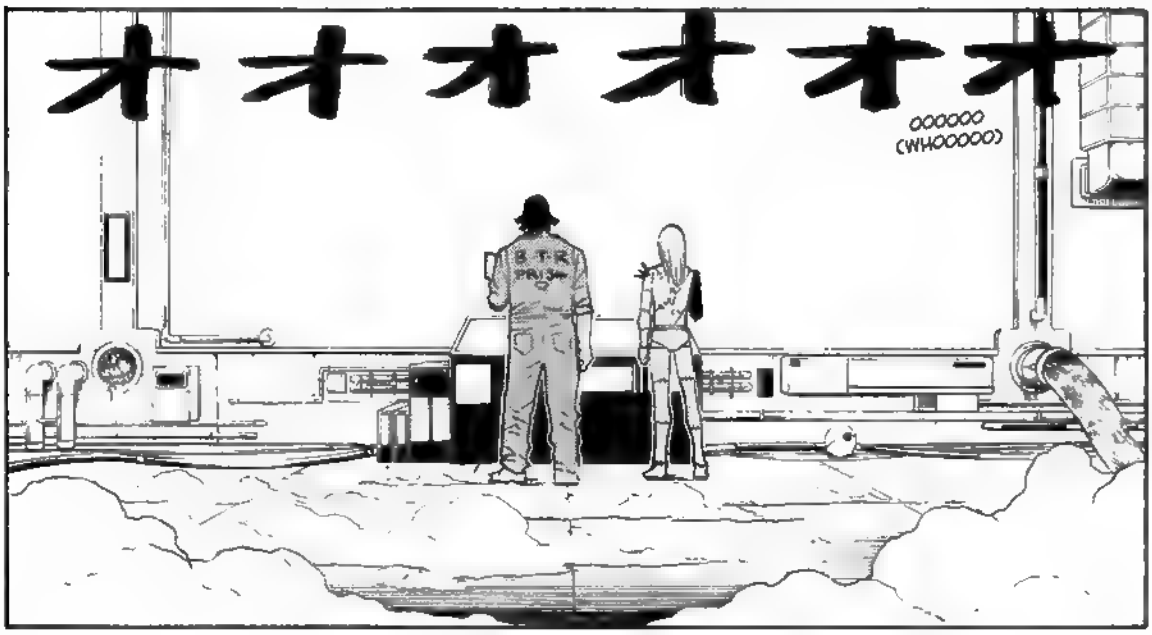
GO ON, GIVE IT A GOOD WHACK.
GWA-HA-HA-HA! YOU'RE A FUNNY ONE.
AND IF I WAS SERI-OUS?
OH, QUIT IT.
THAT'D BE EVEN MORE HILARIOUS.
DOKA (WHUMP)
YOU MEAN, WATCHING OVER THE LOWER DEMON WORLD?
YEAH, THAT.
HOW IS IT?
SO HOW'S YOUR WORK GOING?
HAVING FUN?

NICE SHOT.
KIIN (WHACK)
YES...I THINK IT SUITS ME.
THE HELL'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT SURE DOES HELP ME OUT.
ALTHOUGH THAT CERTAINLY IS A JOB WHICH AMOUNTS TO SIMPLY WATCHING ...
BUT THERE IS ONE THING ABOUT THE CASE THAT GOT MY ATTENTION .....
SU (SLIP)
NICE WORK, THERE.
DIDN'T YOU CATCH THE BRAT THAT WAS MAKING A MESS DOWN THERE? AKIM, WAS IT...?

THIS MAN.
PI (FLICK)
HIS NAME'S PANTO-MIME.
HE WAS ENTRUSTED WITH A TOP SECRET MISSION...
BUT FOR SOME REASON OUR COM-MUNICATIONS SUDDENLY STOPPED...
...AND HE WAS NEVER HEARD FROM AGAIN.

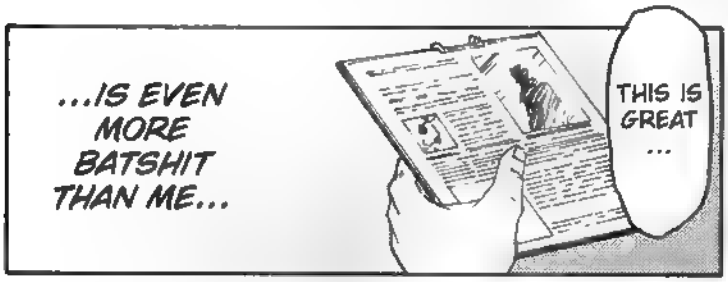


LOOKS JUST LIKE...
...THAT AKIM KID, DON'T YOU THINK ...?


オオオオオオ
OOOOOO
(WHOOOOO)

THIS IS WHAT HE'S BEEN WORKING ON.
HOW ABOUT IT, FRANKEN?

...WILL SOON BE MINE...
THAT BODY...

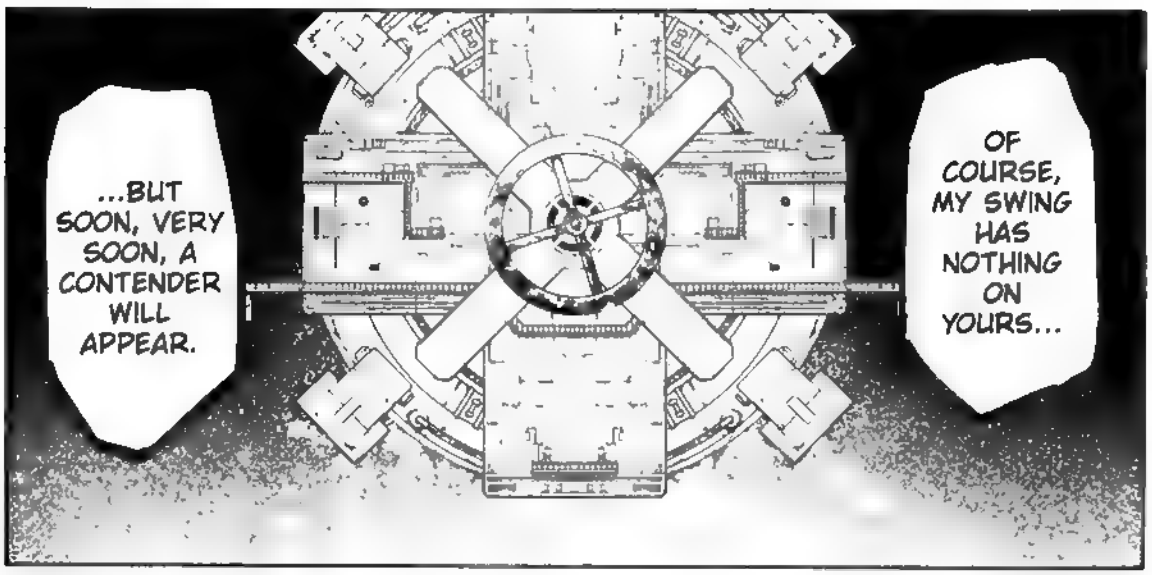

...IS EVEN MORE BATSHIT THAN ME...
THIS IS GREAT ...

THAT GUY...
AREN'T YOU EXCITED?
... YEAH.

OF COURSE.

YOU MUST HAVE REALIZED THAT YOURSELF, SIRE?
I EVEN LEFT EVIDENCE BEHIND THAT WOULD MAKE IT EASY TO FIGURE OUT.
AND, HAVING FOUND THAT, YOU SUMMONED ME HERE...
...WITH PROOF POSI-TIVE.
THAT'S RIGHT...
...BECAUSE THOSE TWO...
...ARE ONE AND THE SAME.
...AND HAD AKIM CREATED ...
I'M THE ONE WHO TOOK PANTOMIME FROM YOU...

THIS, SIRE...
...IS MY DECLA-RATION OF WAR...


...BUT SOON, VERY SOON, A CONTENDER WILL APPEAR.
OF COURSE, MY SWING HAS NOTHING ON YOURS...

♠ To Be Continued ♠

To Be

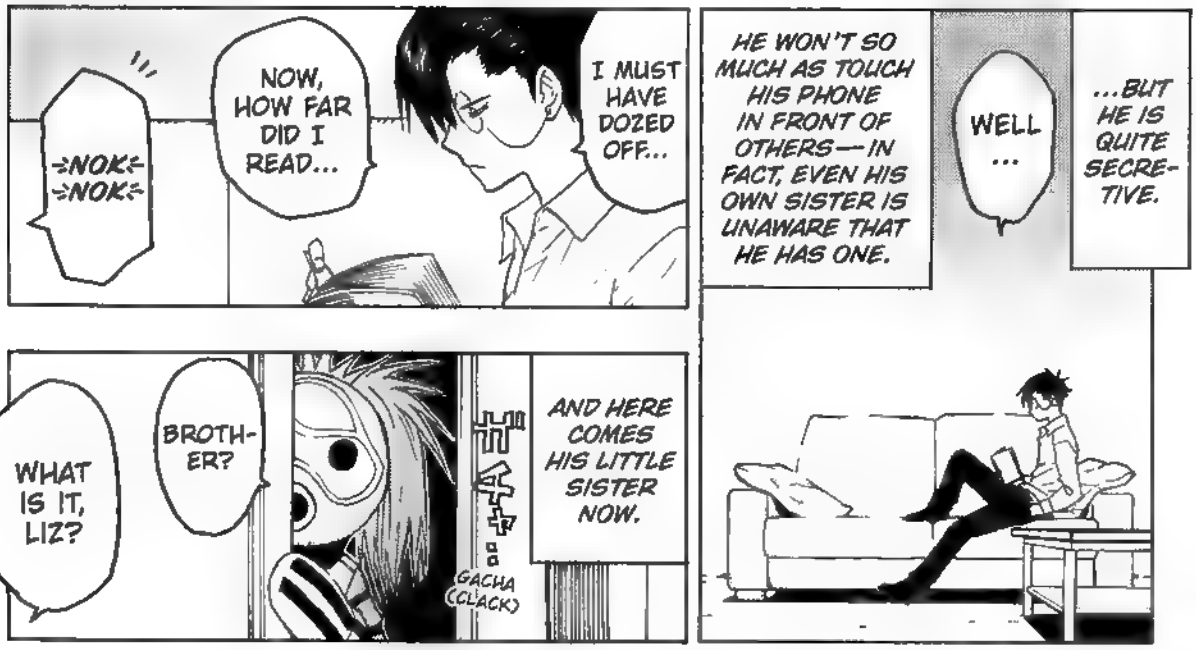
Continued..

BLOOD LAD

LIVING IN THE DEMON WORLD

BRAZ'S EVERYDAY LIFE

SFX: KACHI (CLICK) KACHI
HM...
AS FOR WHAT SORT OF MESSAGES HE RECEIVES, WE MIGHT BE CURIOUS...
OH, THAT'S HIS CELL PHONE?
A MES-SAGE ...
OH, WHAT IS THIS?
KATA (RATTLE)
KATA
KATA
KATA
THIS TIME, WE'LL PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON BRAZ-SAN, A DENIZEN OF DEMON WORLD ACROPOLIS.
HUH?
PASHI (SNATCH)
SO THE VAMPIRE DOES IN FACT SLEEP IN A COFFIN, JUST AS THE LORE TELLS US...


=NOK=
=NOK=
NOW, HOW FAR DID I READ...
I MUST HAVE DOZED OFF...
HE WON'T SO MUCH AS TOUCH HIS PHONE IN FRONT OF OTHERS—IN FACT, EVEN HIS OWN SISTER IS UNAWARE THAT HE HAS ONE.
WELL ...
...BUT HE IS QUITE SECRE-TIVE.
WHAT IS IT, LIZ?
BROTH-ER?
GACHA (CLACK)
AND HERE COMES HIS LITTLE SISTER NOW.

HE HAS NO HARDSHIPS IN HIS DAY-TO-DAY LIFE...
BUT THIS TIME I'LL REALLY JUST LOOK.
I JUST WANNA LOOK.
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE.
.....
...YOU WANT ANOTHER NEW MASK, DO YOU?
SIGH...
DIDN'T YOU JUST BUY ONE THE OTHER DAY?
...TO ACROP-OLIS CITY?
CAN I GO ...
NO.
...BUT HE DOES TAKE DISCIPLINE QUITE SERIOUSLY.
AND ...
バタン
BATAN (SHUT)
OKAY ...
HE ALSO LIKES TO MAKE BARGAINS.
.....
I'LL BUY YOU ONE IF YOU GET A PERFECT SCORE ON YOUR CORRESPON-DENCE COURSE TEST.
MM-HMM.
HE MAKES SURE THAT SHE GETS STARTED RIGHT AWAY...
ピ
PI (BEEP)
...HE LIKES TO WATCH OVER THINGS.
BUUN (BWOOM)
カリ
KARI (SKRTCH)
カリ
KARI
ピクッ
PIKU (TWITCH)
HOW-EVER ...
...AND THAT SHE'S BEING A GOOD GIRL.

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO GET A PERFECT SCORE?
LOOK. THIS PROBLEM HERE.
THIS IS WRONG.
GACHA (CLACK)
KARI カリ
KARI カリ
LIZ...
BUT IF THERE IS ANYONE HE CAN'T CONTROL AS HE LIKES...
MANIPULATING PEOPLE SEEMS TO BE HIS PURPOSE IN LIFE...
UH-HUH...
LISTEN. IF YOU HAVE TWO APPLES...
...THIS IS WHAT ALWAYS HAPPENS IN THE END.
HOW DID YOU GET THAT ANSWER?
BUT IT'S...
...LIKE THIS?
...IF YOU CAN MAKE THAT SORT OF CALCULATION, WHY CAN'T YOU SOLVE THIS PROBLEM?
IF YOU'RE ADDING ONTO THE TERMS, THEN I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO GET A TOTALLY PERFECT SCORE.
AND WHAT IF I WON'T, UNLESS YOU TAKE IT OFF NOW?
I'LL TAKE IT OFF WHEN YOU GET ME A NEW ONE.
...AND YOU SHOULD REALLY TAKE YOUR MASK OFF FOR STUDYING.
DON'T WANNA.
...THAT ONE PERSON MIGHT BE LIZ.
I DON'T GET IT.
...I TOLD YOU, THAT'S WRONG.
IN THEIR OWN WAYS, BOTH HAVE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS THAT DEFY SOLUTION.
END

BLOOD LAD 5

These images appeared under the jacket of the original edition of *Blood Lad*!

SO, YOU'RE CHECKING OUT THE BONUS ART AGAIN, EH...?
SORRY, BUT NEXT VOLUME YOU'D BETTER NOT LOOK...
YOU UNDERSTAND, RIGHT...? DON'T DO IT! DON'T!

IT'S A PROMISE, OKAY...?

BLOOD LAD 5

YUUKI KODAMA

Translation: Melissa Tanaka

Lettering: Alexis Eckerman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

BLOOD LAD Volume 5 © Yuuki KODAMA 2011. Edited by KADOKAWA SHOTEN. First published in Japan in 2011 by KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo. English translation rights arranged with KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo, through TUTTLE-MORI AGENCY, INC., Tokyo.

Translation © 2013 by Hachette Book Group, Inc.

Application Copyright © 2010 by Hachette Book Group, Inc.

All rights reserved. In accordance with the U.S. Copyright Act of 1976, the scanning, uploading, and electronic sharing of any part of this book without the permission of the publisher is unlawful piracy and theft of the author's intellectual property. If you would like to use material from the book (other than for review purposes), prior written permission must be obtained by contacting the publisher at permissions@hbgusa.com. Thank you for your support of the author's rights.

Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
237 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017

www.HachetteBookGroup.com
www.YenPress.com

Yen Press is an imprint of Hachette Book Group, Inc.
The Yen Press name and logo are trademarks of Hachette Book Group, Inc.

The publisher is not responsible for websites (or their content) that are not owned by the publisher.

First Yen Press ebook Edition: May 2013

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-32219-5

App ISBN: 978-0-316-32220-1